acme団 Presents:

Sannin Gurashi

By Hirakita Yuya

Chapter 01

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第2回ルチル新人賞 発表&講評

キュート&スウィートなボーイズコミック

巻頭カラー
九號
「ACID TOWN」
シリーズ読みきり
雛河摩子
三池ろむこ
吹山りこ
前後編読みきり 前編
神奈木 智＋鈴月はるか

PIN-UP★
葉芝真己

読みきり
佐倉ハイジ
ナナキシコ
黄山アスカ
平喜多ゆや

ルチル隔月刊化3周年記念
イラストカード
(謝首色紙無し)
表▶▶有償イラストカード 裏▶▶描き下ろしQ版
6枚セット
応募者全員サービス!!

センターカラー
モチメ子
「恋するバラ色店長」
新連載
秋葉東子
「その恋にはワケがある」
新連載

表紙イラスト
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応募者全員サービス!!

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田中鈴木
葉芝真己
山本小鉄子
Unit Vanilla＋ヤマダサクラコ
一之瀬綾子
一穂ミチ＋竹美家らら

ハート♥ウォーム読み切り

さんにんぐらし

平喜多ゆや

★平喜多先生の作品は、パソコンで読める無料ウェブマガジン「ルチルSWEET」(http://comica.yahoo.co.jp/magazine/rutile-0001.html)でも読めます!!

Dad hasn't been here
Ever since last year, (probably) because of work arrangements and guilt,
That was 6 years ago.
Our dad would hit us, and our mother ran away, so it's just us left.
He isn't at home too often either.
IT'S ALREADY UNLOCKED...
My brother who is 6 years older than me has to balance both school and a part-time job.
I'm already 13 years old.
Loneliness is something I..
ker-shunk
ARE YOU IN THERE, ONII-CHAN?

WELCOME HOME!
KOUJ-KUN?!
THUD THUD THUD
HUH?
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M HARUKI!
HEY, HARUKI
So adorable!
UM...
?
?
OH
I SEE, SORRY ABOUT THAT
IT'S FINE...
Who is this person?
This person is my big brother, his name is Atsunari.
But..
KOUJI ISN'T TOO GOOD WITH STRANGERS

How should I put this.
This person is
GET INSIDE, KOUJI.
YOU MUST BE PRETTY COLD.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
And somehow...
And this person is the same age as him
He's off on a holiday today
My big brother works in the kitchen and as a waiter for his part time job.
!!
GOING OUT WITH EACH OTHER
WE'RE ACTUALLY

BUT IT'S GONNA BE FINE.
ATSUNARI...! YOU SAID IT TOO SOON!
AH!
WE'RE LOVERS
PLAINLY SPEAKING, WE'RE HOMOS. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, RIGHT?
I... I know what it means but...
SO,
HARUKI IS GOING TO LIVE HERE FROM NOW ON, SO GET ALONG!
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.
Onii-chan
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO SUDDEN BUT, I...
Haruki-san

I'D LIKE YOU TO FORGIVE ME FOR STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING THAT'LL BE A BOTHER TO YOU,
AND I REALLY DO LIKE YOUR BROTHER SO...
It really is very sudden
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T WANT ME TO?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "A LITTLE WHILE"?
YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE STAYING PERMANENTLY!
I'M NOT AGAINST IT, SO PLEASE DON'T FIGHT OVER IT.
I'M NOT AGAINST IT,
But
EXCUSE ME
I'm really surprised

Is it weird for me not to mind?
I TOLD YOU HE'D BE FINE WITH IT.
Even though my brother's a homo
SEE?
ALTHOUGH MY BROTHER IS VERY RUDE.
<SFX GROWL>
From Stomach
AH
wash
THUNK
THANK YOU SO MUCH...!
But he doesn't seem to be too weird.
HA HA
KOUJI
I'M BORROWING YOUR KITCHEN!
I'LL MAKE YOU SOMETHING, SO HOLD ON!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! YOU JUST CAME BACK FROM SCHOOL, SO YOU MUST BE HUNGRY!
Excuse me.

I honestly
HIS MEALS ARE REALLY GOOD.
HEY
Thought that
it was strange,
but it's fine...
THANKS.
I'm fine as long as..
they're not going off
just by themselves.

His food was really good, just like my brother said
THANKS FOR THE FOOD, IT WAS REALLY GOOD!
REALLY? THANKS-
OH, I'LL WASH THE DISHES
BUT I ALWAYS WASH THEM.
shaaa
THAT'S SO MATURE OF YOU, KOUJI-KUN
To even help out and all
YOU'RE SO POLITE, TOO!
YOU MUST REALLY GET ALONG WELL WITH YOUR BROTHER
ISN'T THAT NORMAL?
WE DON'T FIGHT EITHER..
HMM..

I HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER TOO,
BUT WE DON'T GET ALONG TOO WELL. SAME WITH MY PARENTS
DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT.
I'M HAPPY JUST BY BEING ABLE TO STAY HERE!
mutter
ANYWAY, YOU SHOULD SHOW ME SOME OLD PICTURES
Like a yearbook or something?
Starting from the next day, we...
I see you whispering over there, what're you two talking about?!
You come here too nii-chan
Yeah, get over here!

Those two
Are lovers, so,
began to eat breakfast every morning together.
Sometimes...
Toilet...
It bothers me a little bit, but,

Every day has become a good day.
It feels like
I'M GOING NOW!
Haruki-san is really nice to me.
And Nii-chan has been able to laugh a lot more.
HAVE A NICE DAAAY!
dreamy
HEY
WHAT IS IT?
slurrp
I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT EVER SINCE YOU CAME HERE,
HE'S BEEN SMILING MORE.
A happy brother.
YEAH, ABOUT KOUJI,

WELL ISN'T THAT CUTE! HE RESEMBLES HIS BROTHER!
kiss
HARUKI,
DON'T GO OFF ANYWHERE
NO WAY!
YOUR BOYFRIEND HIT YOU!?

HE WAS SO GENTLE BEFORE...
HEY...
I DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING
HE'S BEEN IN A REALLY BAD MOOD LATELY
I LOVE HIM SO MUCH.
BUT WHY DID HE HIT ME?
"Why" huh...
We're going to be late Here, eat this! →

Make me really happy
Things like this
Sound cheesy, right? I wanted to write one.
OH YEAH.
I THOUGHT DAD THREW THEM ALL AWAY.
OLD PICTURES
THERE.
But I don't remember them ever actually being like that
Mom and Dad were smiling in the picture,
ONII-CHAN HAS REALLY CHANGED

Why did it turn out like this?
I guess they were good to each other at first...
AND THAT'S WHY MY BROTHER AND I ARE EVEN HERE
Getting along after a while, huh.
But it's still hard to keep
Normally, it's boys with girls,
I DON'T GET IT...
"He was so gentle before..."
SHUT
If both of them are guys
Not to mention,

AH.
HOOOME!
WE'RE
KOU-CHAN, DON'T SLEEP IN THE KOTATSU.
WELL,
MAYBE HE LIKED THE HEAT WHEN HE GOT BACK UNDER IT.
LET HIM BE.
RIGHT.
KOU-CHAN'S SLEEPING FACE IS JUST SO CUTE,
IT MAKES ME WANT TO KISS HIM!
OH, I PUT SOME TEA ON, GOOD THING I'M HERE!
I sure am tired.
But, I
WERE YOU A LITTLE JEALOUS JUST NOW?
JUST A LITTLE...

WHEN YOU GUYS WERE STILL IN SCHOOL I..
That's good...
YEAH?
ISN'T TOMORROW A DAY OFF FOR THE SHOP?
They both have such gentle voices
IDIOT!
HA HA HA
They're back
DON'T CALL ME AN IDIOT, IDIOT!

and then we were left

and mom ran away

Dad would hit

It was sad.

It made me uneasy, and it was scary.

I cried until I started to throw up

That's what I remember

I still don't know what happened to my parents, but...

I waited for my brother to come home, worrying.

And I miserably yearned for my mom.

I didn't trust my dad,

I thought I would become used to it, but

YOUR BIG BROTHER IS HERE WITH YOU.

DON'T CRY, KOUJI

Was my brother, who was just a child himself

I was helpless and only person who was kind to me

Up until now my life has felt so lonely

When my brother brought in Haruki-san,

I felt that our lives became a lot better than before

Don't want that.

I...

When I had no family,

When the others and I would cry...

To go back to that time...

But I'm scared.
...scared for Onii-chan and Haruki-san, too...
The same thing that happened between my mom and dad.
"He was so gentle before"
Giving me special treatment.
"I love him so much, but why
did he hit me?"
Something is...
GOOD MORNING! KOU-CHAN, WANT TO EAT BREAKFAST NOW?
MORNING
DON'T FALL ASLEEP UNDER THE KOTATSU
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN READY FOR SCHOOL YET...!
GO GET YOUR THINGS READY FOR SCHOOL.
Nii-chan?
He's in a bad mood...?
AH!
I FELL ASLEEP UNDER THE KOTATSU

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WAKE UP ON YOUR OWN.
LAST NIGHT,
My uneasiness
May have always
Been there
I'M GOING NOW.
HAVE A GOOD DAY!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED. .
HE'S A REALLY SENSITIVE KID.
Aah.
IT MIGHT BE MY FAULT. .

HEY KOUJI,
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY TODAY?
YOU LOOK A LITTLE SICK
?
HOW?
Nii-chan is at school.
I wonder if Haruki-san is at home.
Or maybe he went out.
...REALLY? I FEEL JUST FINE.
HMM...
OKAY, THEN
Today the shop is on holiday.
I wonder if they're both at home
or they're coming home together.
It's okay if they're going separate but
But if they're
At home
OH
I'M HOME!
WELCOME HOME!

I THINK HE'LL BE HERE SOON
WHERE'S NII-CHAN?
STILL AT SCHOOL?
WHAT HAPPENED...?
AH...
I EVEN BUSTED UP MY BACK A LITTLE BIT.
AND I JUST FELL OVER
I shouldn't care about him
He's treating me as if
That's a lie
Ouch
IT'S NOTHING BIG, I JUST TOOK A WALK OUTSIDE FOR A BIT
chink

Are you going to leave
Without a word,
Just like my mom?
COULD YOU HELP ME PUT ON A COMPRESS?
SO COLD~
NUAAHH!
IT'S SO COLD!
pat
OVER HERE?
YEAH
WAS IT ACTUALLY NII-CHAN THAT DID THIS?
YEAH!
THEY'RE IN SEASON NOW!
A BUG!
UWAH-
AH, BUT IT FEELS A LOT BETTER, THANKS!
IS THIS A BUG BITE?
...KOU-CHAN?
HMMM...
poke

HURTING BOTH YOUR FACE AND BACK JUST BY FALLING DOWN SOUNDS A LITTLE STRANGE
DID HE HIT YOU?
What?
HUH?
AH
WELL, THIS IS...
I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN AGAIN!
BUT I DON'T GET IT!
I KNOW HE WAS IN A BAD MOOD THIS MORNING,
. KOU-CHAN?
WE FINALLY BECAME A LOVING FAMILY, WHY IS HE DESTROYING IT?
Do such a thing?
Thinking that
What am I doing
My brother would
Huh?
KOUJI.
MOM AND DAD...

YOUR BROTHER WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT
It's going to be fine, because I'm here.
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU TOLD ME WHAT WAS BOTHERING YOU.
THE REASON WHY ATSUNARI WAS IN SUCH A BAD MOOD IS BECAUSE I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS GOING TO SEE MY PARENTS TODAY.
Don't cry, Kouji
HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME.
I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT YOUR PARENTS.

First you leave the house and now you steal from it?!
So my body,
WE GOT IN AN ARGUMENT AND HE HIT ME
Why-?
UNFORTUNATELY, HE HAPPENED TO BE THERE
IT WAS JUST THAT I NEEDED TO GO GET SOMETHING
...I HONESTLY DON'T GET ALONG VERY WELL WITH MY OLDER BROTHER.
I'M SORRY FOR LYING.
I WAS WORKING TO GET MY CHEF'S LICENSE AT THE SHOP I WORK AT SO I COULD GET ENOUGH MONEY TO LEAVE THE HOUSE.
AND THEN I MET ATSUNARI THERE
HE TOLD ME, "IF LIVING THERE IS SO PAINFUL, RUN AWAY LIKE MY MOTHER DID."
"COME LIVE WITH ME."
"I WANT MY LITTLE BROTHER TO BE ABLE TO EAT GOOD MEALS."

"My little brother will understand, so it'll be okay."
AND IT ALL WORKED OUT...
I didn't feel uneasy about it at all then.
HUH?
I WAS REALLY HAPPY THAT HE ASKED ME BUT HONESTLY, I THOUGHT YOU'D REJECT ME.
BUT YOU KNOW, YOUR BROTHER SAID,
I'M GLAD I CAME HERE...
THANK YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO BECOME LIKE MY MOM...
NO, NO!
I WANT TO BE HERE!

wipe
wipe
COME ON, NOW STOP CRYING!
nod
OKAY...
OKAY?
I'M SORRY FOR SAYING THOSE WEIRD THINGS
I KNOW, I KNOW. ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO, OVER THERE!
And the person he loves
My only brother

WELCOME HOME!
With all my power
I will believe in them
SO WARM.
When I also
I'M HOME.
That I love
Find someone
And then

YEAH.
Just like this.
And share moments
It will definitely
KOU-CHAN PUT IT ON FOR ME!
HARUKI, YOUR COMPRESS STINKS...
OOOOH!
Be great.

WOAH!!
CHUBBY!!
YEAH HE WAS
This is so
Cute!
AH! IT'S THIS ONE!
ATSUNARI KEPT A YEARBOOK FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

HE HAD REALLY FLUFFY AND WARM HANDS BACK THEN

Our happy daily lives will still continue on
You guys
They were probably a lot more fluffy back then than now.
Yeah!
END

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小学生の幸司は、歳の離れた兄ちゃんとふたりぐらし。

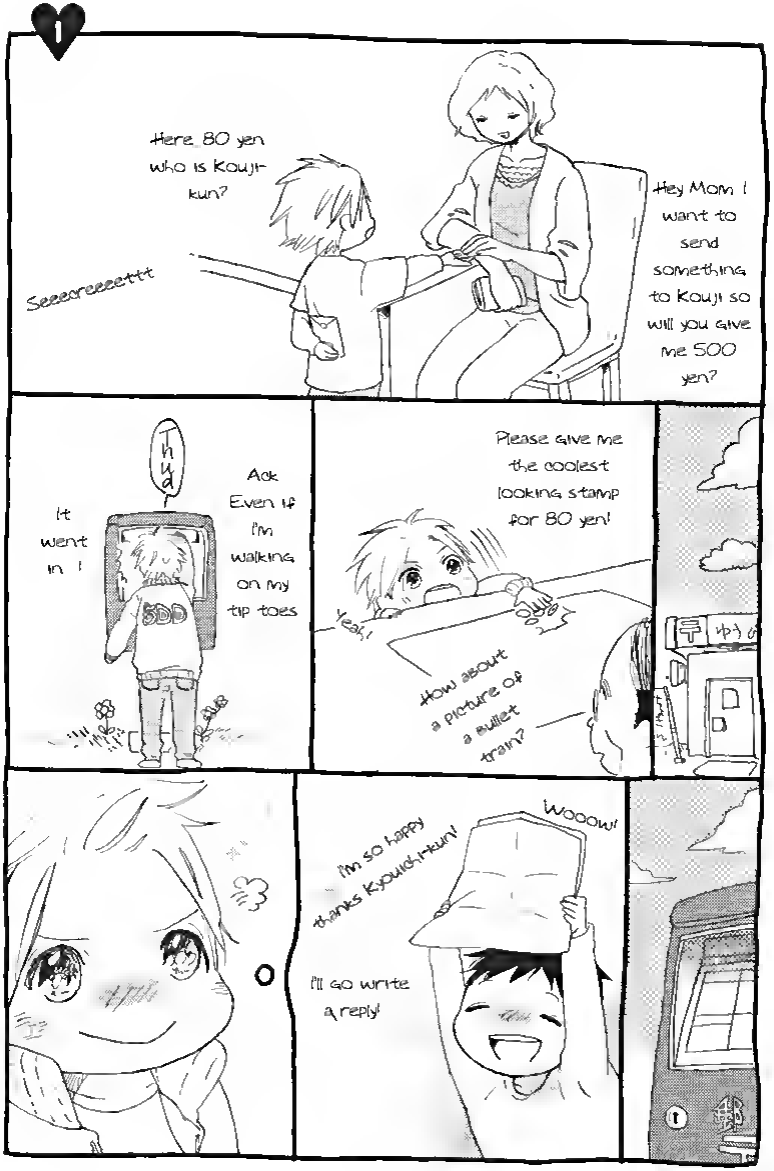
そんなふたりの家に、兄ちゃんの恋人・緑樹くんがやってくる。

「さんにんぐらし」になり、賑やかになった家は、

前より何だかあったかくて、嬉しいことがいっぱいで――。

表題作ほか、高校生になった幸司の恋を描く「初恋と、それから」、

その後の描き下ろしも収録!!


1
Here 80 yen who is Kouji-kun?
Seeeereeeettt
Hey Mom ! want to send something to Kouji so will you give me 500 yen?
hud
It went in !
Aok Even if I'm walking on my tip toes
Please give me the coolest looking stamp for 80 yen!
Yeah!
How about a picture of a bullet train?
I'm so happy thanks Kouji-kun!
I'll go write a reply!
Wooow!

Kyouichi
Did a reply come?
Did Kouji's reply come?
Dash
Several days later
Waku!
VROOM
There is no address listed, therefore we are unable to send this
Oh, my
Sniffle
They don't know his address so they can't send it to Koujirou's house
can't read this kanji
We'll definitely see each other again
Sure
Want to have a snack?

さんにんぐらし
Sann-n Gurashi

初恋と、それから。

第1話

First love and afterwards
Chapter 1

My brother, his lover Haruki, and I have been living together for almost four years.
I became a first year highschool student, and have been one for a few months now.
Your sleeping position is interesting today too
HEEEEY- GET UUUP-

Haruki-kun is an apprentice chef at a famous restaurant here.
My brother graduated from college, and now works for a company.
HEY, HARUKI.
YOU'RE REALLY ENERGETIC THIS MORNING, KOUJI
I JUST HAVE TO WORK TONIGHT AT THE SHOP.
DID YOU SEE THE BENTO I MADE YOU?
YEAH, THANKS.
Yawn

My parents divorced and we all live separately,
but this three-person living arrangement isn't lonely at all
OH
I HAVE THE EVENING SHIFT AT MY PART-TIME JOB TODAY, SO I'LL BE BACK LATE.
WORK HARD NOW~!
GOT IT.
I WILL!
WELL, I'LL BE GOING OUT FIRST.
This was my first job ever, and I've been at it for a few months.
HAVE A NICE DAY!
It was really straining at first, but
I've got the feel for it now

GOOD MORNING!
I think it may be thanks to my senpai and childhood friend, Wakui Kyouichi
lather lather
OH
MORNING, KOUJI!
He moved away in elementary school, and we weren't able to see each other after that.
You didn't believe me for a second!
We used to play together a lot when we were little.
He's one year my senior, and goes to a different school
I WAS TOLD TO MAKE 300 ORDERS OF HAMBURGERS TODAY.
HUH!?
THAT'S A LIE
YOU'RE NO FUN ..
Sigh
Seeing him here made me really happy.

YOU'RE STARTING TO GET THE FEEL FOR IT NOW, HUH?
He taught me about the job just like a relative would, he really saved me.
Thanks to him, I was able to do my work painlessly but...
YEP!
I'M BACK
UH... THANK YOU VERY MUCH
It sounds like you're some old man rambling on and on
THAT KID WHO WOULD ALWAYS CRY AT THE PARK
CAN NOW SERVE WITH A SHINING SMILE I'M SO GLAD
I LIKE YOU, KOUJI
SO WON'T YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
THE TRUTH IS, I
ANYWAY,

I-
I'M SORRY
Don't have many memories of playing with senpai back then
HUH? OH... IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF THAT...
...IT'S BECAUSE I'M A MAN, RIGHT?
A while ago
But, uh, the truth is
And senpai confessed to me, just like that, a few weeks ago.
so there's no way I'd think like that now.
Haruki-kun and my brother are close to me,
Hmm...

I started to notice someone
AH...
WELCOME!
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO ORDER?
He frequently comes and orders the same thing every time
OKAY.
TWO CHEESE BURGERS, MEDIUM-SIZED FRIES,
AND A SMALL DRINK
IT WILL BE OUT SHORTLY
..It feels weird to say that.
He's definitely a good person.
WITHOUT PICKLES, PLEASE

I guess it's a pretty common name.
The same last name as Haruki-kun.
Oh, he's called Watanabe-san.
YEAH, YOU SHOULD GET UP THERE QUICKLY.
DID YOU ORDER, WATANABE?
I wonder what his first name is.
Watanabe-san Watanabe-san
HUH?
DO YOU LIKE THAT GUY, KOUJI?

BY THE WAY, SENPAI
HEY, DO YOU LIKE OLDER GUYS?
I'M AN OLDER GUY TOO-!
Not so much though
She was a cute one!
What was that about there?
SENPAI SASAKAMA ELSHINE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT SALARYMAN! WHEN HE CAME, YOU EVEN SMILED FOR FREE!
THANKS FOR LENDING ME THIS DVD.
HERE!
?
I'M FINE WITH THAT, BUT AREN'T YOU STUDYING FOR EXAMS?
I KNOW RIGHT! IF YOU WANT, LET'S GO SEE A LIVE PERFORMANCE SOMETIME!
...! I'M A MUCH BETTER STUDENT THAN YOU THINK I AM!
BUT IT WAS REALLY INTERESTING.
IT WAS THE FIRST COMEDY I'VE EVER WATCHED,

I'm glad that I was able to reconnect with him after all this time.
GOOD WORK TODAY
YOU TOO
Although he's my senior, this is my first time having such a light conversation with him.
HEH- THAT'S UNEXPECTED. AH, THE TRAIN IS ALMOST HERE, I HAVE TO GO.
SEE YA LATER!
YEAH, YOU TOO
STAY SAFE, OKAY?
I KNOW IF I DO.
IT'S NOT LIKE
"DO YOU LIKE THAT GUY?"
I'm thankful, but...

I don't know, but it might be like that...
I FORGOT TO BUY THE PANCETTA!
OH CRAP-
SORRY KOU-CHAN, I'LL GO BUY SOME AND BE RIGHT BACK
OKAY, THERE'S A CONVENIENCE STORE OVER THERE
I was planning on making carbonara
FSHHH-
HUH..?
WATANABE-SAN!?
WHAT'S HE DOING!!?

MAYBE HE'S LOST...
EXCUSE ME...
DO YOU NEED SOME HELP?
HUH? UH... ARE YOU THE GUY FROM THE HAMBURGER SHOP...?
YEAH!
WE'VE SPOKEN A FEW TIMES
HE REMEMBERED...
SORRY FOR SUDDENLY DISTURBING YOU...
UM... I'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE LOST HERE.

DO YOU KNOW THE NAME OF THIS PLACE OVER HERE?
UH
UM...
YOU GO THIS WAY, AND AT THE THIRD STOPLIGHT YOU MAKE A RIGHT AND..
KOUUU-CHAAAN!
REALLY?
YEAH, I KNOW IT.
SORRY, IS STUFF FROM THE CONVEN-IENCE STORE OKAY?
AH, HARUKI-KUN,
THIS IS ONE OF MY REGULARS AT WORK...
..HARUKI..!?
Huh?
NO WAY!!!
HM?

HUH
!?
ANIKI...
HARUKI.. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING!?
I AM WORKING!
DIDN'T YOU EVER HEAR FROM MOM?
I FINALLY HAVE A JOB, AND I EVEN KEEP IN CONTACT WITH HER NOW.
.....
...OH... I SEE...
glance
...THEN COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE...

WHA ..?
IS THIS THE KID YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH?
IT'S JUST AS MOM SAID YOU'VE MELLOWED OUT A BIT
YEAH, SORRY...
ANYWAY, THIS ISN'T A CONVERSATION TO HAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET
Sigh
.....
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
WHAT...?
...HARUKI
CRAP, I HAVE TO GO NOW
THAT MIGHT BE IT

HAVE YOU BEEN DOING WELL?
EVERY DAY HAS BEEN FUN FOR ME
YEAH
THANKS FOR THE HELP,
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME
SEND MY REGARDS TO YOUR LITTLE BROTHER FOR ME
I SEE

OH... NO... YES.
WELL THEN.
...
HE STILL HAS NO SENSE OF DIRECTION
HE'S NOT A KID. HE'LL FIND A WAY...
...KOU-CHAN.
WHY DON'T WE GET SOME TEA?
Haruki-kun
HE-
HE REALLY SURPRISED ME... HE REALLY SURPRISED ME!!!!!
ACK-
I DIDN'T TELL HIM WHAT ROAD TO TAKE!

OH...
IT'S OKAY
"The kid you're going out with?"
WHEN WE WERE IN THE STREET
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
left his home four years ago, just like my brother and I did.
But it seems like he hasn't gone back home since that one time.
I'VE BEEN KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH MY MOM BY PHONE RECENTLY.
LOOKS LIKE SHE WANTS ME TO COME BACK HOME.
BEFORE I WENT TO YOUR HOUSE, I THOUGHT I GOT ALONG WITH MY PARENTS REALLY WELL,
... SO I THOUGHT THEY'D ACCEPT MY SEXUALITY.
BUT I GUESS I WAS A LITTLE TOO OPTIMISTIC
.....

IN REALITY, MY ENTIRE FAMILY PANICKED!
MY DAD WAS UNBELIEVABLY MAD AT ME.
MY MOM EVEN FAINTED.
ALL I WAS GOOD AT WAS COOKING.
I WOULD MAKE THE MEALS IN PLACE OF MY MOM.
MY BROTHER EVEN SAID TO ME. "YOU THINK I'D EAT SOMETHING SO DISGUSTING YOU MADE!?"
HONESTLY, THAT HURT ME A LOT.
.....
BUT HE WAS DEFINITELY THE MOST SHOCKED OUT OF ALL OF THEM.

I DON'T THINK MY PARENTS WILL EVER FORGIVE ME FOR MAKING THEM GO THROUGH THAT
MY BROTHER HAS A BAD MOUTH, EMOTIONAL, AND A CLUMSY KIND OF PERSON
SORRY FOR BRINGING UP SUCH A DARK TOPIC,
BUT IT SURPRISED ME THAT MY BROTHER WAS IN SUCH A CALM MOOD
HAVE YOU BEEN DOING WELL?
Watanabe-san and Haruki-kun's relationship will get better.
HE ALWAYS EATS WITHOUT PICKLES
YOU KNOW, YOUR BROTHER COMES TO MY PART-TIME JOB A LOT.
YE-
YEAH
Definitely,

SERI-OUSLY?
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN PICKY SINCE HE WAS A KID.
That'd be a great thing.
Because if Haruki-kun is happy, so are my brother and I.
I'm happy.
But...
some-thing's still wrong.
ISN'T THAT GREAT FOR HIM
Somehow
Somehow...
"IS THIS THE KID YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH?"
This kid...
This kid...
Haruki-kun said he had a bad mouth, but
Watanabe-san only sees me as a child...
Kid
Kid
Kid!

I wonder how old he is...
He might be the same sign as me.
Ah!
I don't like feeling so depressed...
DO-
DO I WANT TO GO OUT WITH HIM!?
BUT HE "THIS KID."
BRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRING
Just house sitting as usual
HELLO?
OH, IT'S YOU WAKUI-SENPAI
I'M NOT DOING MUCH... WHAT DO YOU NEED?
NOTHING, JUST TURN YOUR TELEVISION ONTO CHANNEL 4!

A HA HA HA HA
SEE!? ISN'T HE HILARIOUS!!
SEE!?
!!
CHICK
THE ACTOR THAT JUST CAME ON IS FREAKING HILARIOUS!
OH...
YE- YES... PFF...
Ha Ha
YOU'RE LAUGHING AND YOU SOUND REALLY CHEERFUL RIGHT NOW SO...
HEY- ARE YOU FEELING A LITTLE BETTER NOW?
HUH?
OH
...YEAH, THANKS A LOT
DID I HAVE GOOD TIMING?
YOU DIDN'T SOUND TOO GOOD WHEN YOU PICKED UP THE PHONE!

LATER! G'NIGHT!
YES GOOD NIGHT
MY BATTERY IS ABOUT TO DIE SO OKAY
NOOO, BUT...
YOU'RE REALLY HONEST. THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU!
he's started up again
THANKS! I'M GOING TO HANG UP NOW.
HE MADE ME FEEL A LOT BETTER JUST NOW
EVEN THOUGH I WAS DOWN JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO,
if I could feel like this again tomorrow
It'd be great

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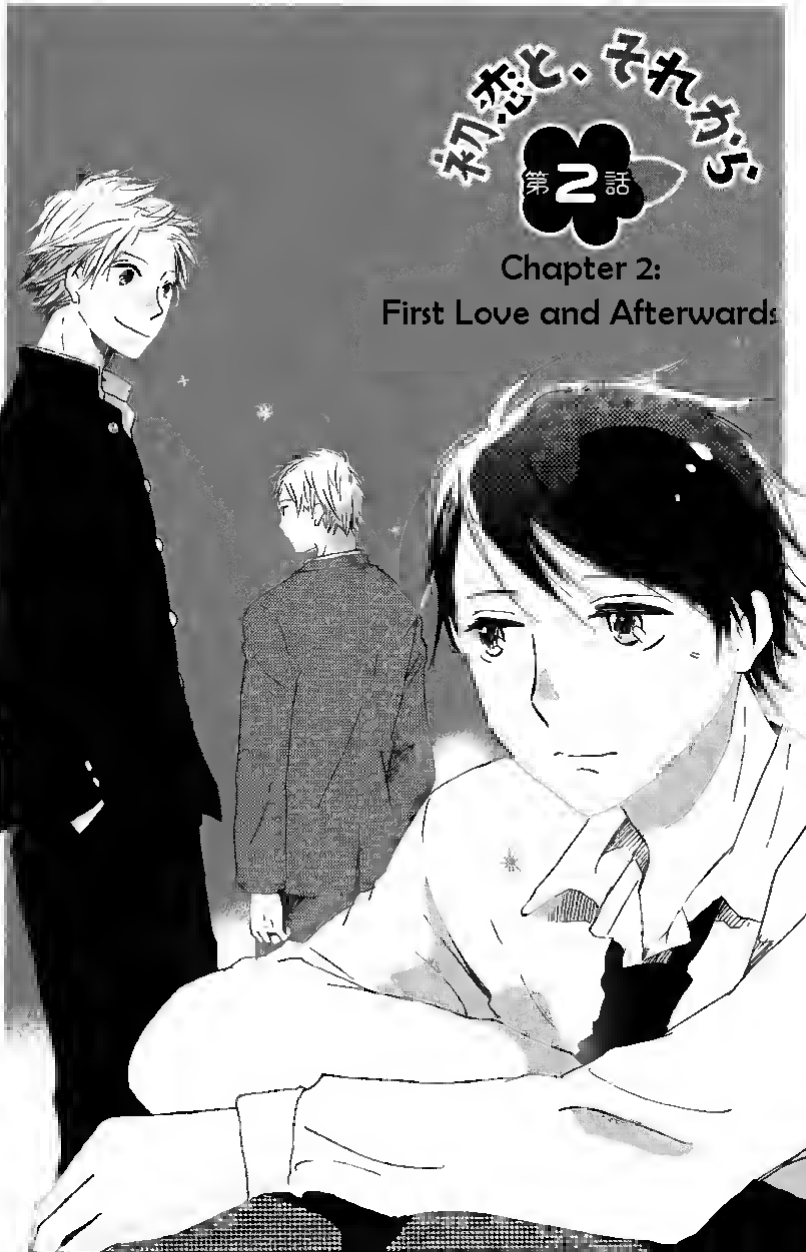
初恋と、それから。
第2話
Chapter 2:
First Love and Afterwards

WELCOME—!
WELCOME TO THE SHOP!
THANKS FOR SHOWING ME THE WAY BEFORE, KOUJI-KUN
I WENT THE WAY YOU TOLD ME, AND STRUGGLED, BUT I MADE IT.

NO, UH-
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
I HEARD IT FROM HARUKI, BUT I COULD JUST LOOK AT YOUR NAMEPLATE AND SEE IT.

HMM I'LL HAVE AN APPLE PIE, CHICKEN NUGGETS, AND TWO CHEESE-BURGERS WITHOUT PICKLES
IT'LL BE OUT SHORTLY.
OH, AND MAKE IT TAKE-OUT TODAY.

I'LL BE GOING OVER TO YOUR HOUSE
I'LL EAT IT QUICKLY, AND THEN AFTER I FINISH WORK TODAY,
HUH?
OH...
I WANT TO GIVE MY GREETINGS TO YOUR BROTHER, AS WELL AS ANNOUNCE SOMETHING.
EXCUSE ME, BUT THE COST IS-
UHM, IT WAS...
IT COMES OUT TO 540 YEN TOTAL.
OKAY.
IS THAT SO...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!

IT'S BOTHERING ME..
I NEED TO GET HOME QUICK
Announce something?
I wonder what it is
Watanabe-san looked really happy
HEY, KOUJI.
YEAH?
YOU KNOW...
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AM I REALLY NO GOOD?

YOU LOOK REALLY CLOSE TO THAT SALARY MAN NOW,
AND WHENEVER I TELL YOU THAT I LOVE YOU, YOU JUST SHRUG IT OFF, SO IT'S BOTHERING ME
SORRY FOR SAYING THIS STUFF ALL OF A SUDDEN,
BUT....
SENPAI...?
THAT AGAIN ..
SENPA-
WATA-NABE-SAN IS COMING OVER
THE TRUTH IS I-
I NEED TO GET HOME SOON
I REALLY DO LOVE YOU, KOUJI

GOOD WORK TODAY!
I'M GOING TO HEAD HOME NOW.
I-
Well uh,
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING IN HERE?
OH?
AH... MORI-SAN,
WHAT DID YOU DO, WAKU-CHAN?
YES, GOOD WORK TODAY!
I WONDER WHAT HE MEANT BY "THE TRUTH IS I-"
That surprised me.
What's with Senpai lately?
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

You look really close to that salary man.
I WONDER IF WE CAN ACT NORMALLY THE NEXT TIME WE MEET
I HOPE HE TELLS ME WHAT HE MEANT TO SAY
..I WONDER IF
WATA-NABE-SAN IS THERE YET
It'd be great if he and my brother could get along really well.
ME TOO,
JUST A LITTLE BETTER...
SLIDE
AH,
HE'S ALREADY HERE
HUH!?
ANIKI, ARE YOU TELLING ME...

YEAH
I'M GETTING MARRIED.
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
I'M SERIOUS
IS THAT SO.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
THANK YOU, ATSUNARI-KUN.
OH~~
OH ANIKI, YOU...
WHAT?

I HEARD MANY THINGS ABOUT YOU FROM MOM.
AND THAT YOU...
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING REALLY HARD.
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT!
I TOLD MY GIRLFRIEND EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.
WHY !?!?
WHAT A GUY
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHY", SHE'S GOING TO BE YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW, YOU KNOW.

4 YEARS AGO, I WAS A VERY AWFUL PERSON TO YOU...
I STILL... NEED TO REFLECT ON MY ACTIONS.
ANIKI...
MY GIRLFRIEND IS ALSO A VERY BIG FAN OF YOUR RESTAURANT.
I HEARD THAT IT'S GETTING EVEN MORE POPULAR
SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE'S OVERJOYED TO HAVE A BROTHER-IN-LAW-WORK THERE.
NO WAY... I'M JUST A REGULAR EMPLOYEE.
A- ANYWAY, WHAT OF THE CEREMONY?
OH, WE'RE STILL DISCUSSING THAT...

EXCUSE ME FOR A SECOND
ATSU-NARI?
WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, KOUJI?
I used to do things like that before aunt.
!!
NII-CHAN ...
HUH, KOU-CHAN!?
I'M SORRY, I COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT TIME TO COME IN..
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!
Hurry up and eat.
WELCOME BACK, KOUJI.
GOOD WORK TODAY.

.....
UHM UH
THANKS ...
CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON YOUR MARRIAGE!
...WHAT'S WRONG? WON'T YOU COME IN?
OH TRUTH IS, I FORGOT MY CELL PHONE AT WORK...
.....
HAHA, DON'T BE SHY- THANK YOU

IT'S FINE, NII-CHAN.
WANT ME TO GET THE CAR OUT?
HEY KOUJI,
I NEED TO GO BACK AND GET IT NOW
BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
I'LL BE OFF...
and my brother hit it off with him from the start.
Haruki-kun

IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO BE HUNG OVER ABOUT
I ALREADY CONGRATULATED HIM ANYWAY
That's a great thing
I couldn't get myself to go in there when he was announcing his marriage.
I didn't even do anything, but it kinda feels like I've been dumped.
I'm glad.
Watanabe-san looked really happy because he could announce his marriage to them.
I'M GLAD I GOT USED TO IT AT WORK
I FAKED A GOOD SMILE

Even Wakui-senpai... I think I made him feel sad because of me...
I'm so sorry...
Even if I say that now...
Vroom
I CUT OFF SENPAI COMPLETELY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CONVERSATION, I REALLY MESSED UP.
EVEN THOUGH THE SITUATION WAS KIND OF WEIRD...
..I WASN'T LYING WHEN I SAID I FORGOT MY CELL PHONE
WHAT DO I DO NOW..
I'm just walking around aimlessly.
SCREECH
HEY!
THAT'S YOU, RIGHT KOUJI!?

WAKUI-SENPAI...!? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
PHEW- GLAD IT'S YOU, KOUJI.
YOU FORGOT THIS AT WORK,
SO I THOUGHT I'D GET IT BACK TO YOU.
!?
WERE YOU JUST ABOUT TO GO GET IT?
AH,
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU THEN.
Even though it wasn't my intention
WELL THEN,
KISS ME AS THANKS!
WHA-
.....

I KNOW WHAT I SAID MADE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE BUT IT'S FINE IF WE CAN JUST BE LIKE WE ALWAYS WERE, YOU KNOW?
DON'T TAKE IT SO SERIOUSLY AND WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT I'D STILL BE PRETTY HAPPY IF YOU GAVE ME A GOODBYE KISS AS THANKS OR SOMETHING
I'M GOING TO QUIT WORK.
SENPAI...?
YOU KNOW, I-

DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT YOU DIDN'T NEED TO STUDY? AND THAT YOU WERE A STRAIGHT-A STUDENT AS IT IS?
WELL... I SHOULD BE STUDYING FOR EXAMS, YOU KNOW?
And my parents have been nagging at me about it as well.
WHY?
I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE "OH, IS THAT SO?"
!
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING!?
... MY BAD.

THIS BRIDGE USED TO FEEL SO SMALL BACK WHEN WE WERE LITTLE.
AND THE WAY I USED TO TAKE GOT EVEN BIGGER.
I thought I'd cost lost again.
YEAH ...
... SO, YEAH ...
THIS IS THE PLACE WE REDEVELOPED AROUND SIX OR SEVEN YEARS AGO SO IT'D BECOME MORE EFFICIENT.
THE AREA AROUND MY HOUSE HASN'T CHANGED THAT MUCH, THOUGH.
HMM .. WHAT ABOUT THAT PARK? YOU KNOW THE ONE WE USED TO PLAY AT A LOT AS KIDS?
I THINK... IT'S A DENTIST'S OFFICE NOW.
THEY MOVED IT TO A BIGGER PLACE SO THEY COULD PUT MORE EQUIPMENT THERE.
HUH ...?

SOME-HOW
MEM-ORIES ARE COMING UP...
EVEN IF I QUIT, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS AT WORK JUST CALL ME.
OH YEAH, KOUJI.
SEE?
THERE'S THE OFFICE.
OH...
UM
I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER A STUDENT PREPARING FOR EXAMS.
I WAS JUST MISERABLE FROM HAVING MY HEART BROKEN A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
THERE'S NO WAY I'D EVER THINK OF YOU AS A BOTHER!
AS IF, IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE THAT...
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS
THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO QUIT YOUR JOB. .
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WAS A STRAIGHT-A STUDENT?

OH...
STUDY DILIGENTLY...
"I'm going to study really hard in elementary school!"
SENPAI ...
"Hey, hey!!"
?
WHAT'S UP, KOUJI?
I'M KYOUICHI!!

WHO'RE YOU!?
I-
I'M SAKAUCHI KOUJI.
HMM.. I'M SIX YEARS OLD, SO I GUESS THAT MAKES ME OLDER THAN YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE BENCH? IT'S NOT FUN AT ALL!
ARE YOU CRYING BECAUSE YOUR MOM GOT MAD AT YOU OR SOMETHING?
PUFF
WHAT!? AM I RIGHT!?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT BUT-
MY MOM IS GONNA GET ANGRY AT ME SOON, SO TAKE THIS HANDKERCHIEF AND THESE TISSUES BEFORE-
COME ON, BLOW INTO IT!
MY M- MOM AND DAD STARTED TO FIGHT AND I STARTED TO CRY.
SO I'M GOING HOME WITH MY BROTHER SO I HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM AND HE'S AT SCHOOL SO I'M WAITING FOR HIM SO WE CAN GO HOME TOGETHER-
HEY,
DO YOU LIKE THE SWINGS OR THE JUNGLE GYM BETTER?

ME TOO-!
THE SWINGS
Yeah... Yeah! After that,
KOUJI!
AH, NII-CHAN!
Every day,
We'd play together
and have fun together.
Even though we did all that
KOUJI?

SEE YOU LATER, KYOUICHI-KUN!
ARE YOU GOING HOME TOO, KOUJI?
OH, ISN'T THAT COOL?
5th grader
I was digging tunnels with Kyouichi-kun.
FATTY YYYYYYY!!!
FA-
YOU SHOULD HEAD HOME TOO. IT'S ALMOST 5 P.M.
!!!
I SAID IT'S FINE, KOUJI.
KYOUICHI-KUN YOU STUPID HEAD!!!
BAM
Drop
~KYO...
...LET'S GO KOUJI.

KOUJI...
CREAK
CRUSH!
I'M SO-
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTER-DAY/
MY MOM AND DAD CALL MY BROTHER A LOT OF MEAN THINGS AT HOME.
HE TOLD ME THAT THEY REALLY DON'T GET ALONG WITH HIM.
I SAID SOMETHING MEAN TOO,
SO I WANT TO MAKE UP FOR IT.
I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU SO I WON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT ANYMORE.
SO PROMISE NOT TO CALL MY BIG BROTHER FAT ANYMORE, OKAY?
I WON'T.

TODAY'S THE LAST DAY I GET TO PLAY HERE...
I'M SORRY FOR NOT SAYING IT ALL THIS TIME...
?
BUT WE PLAY TOGETHER HERE ALL THE TIME.
SO I GOT A LITTLE JEALOUS OF YOUR BROTHER, THAT'S ALL.
I WANTED TO GO HOME WITH YOU,
I'M GOING TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THERE ONCE SPRING COMES.
IT'S THE TOWN RIGHT NEXT TO HERE. MY FAMILY BUILT A HOUSE SO WE'RE MOVING OVER THERE.
HUH? I DON'T WANT THAT!
I-
I'M GONNA WORK REALLY HARD!
I'M GONNA STUDY REAL HARD THIS TIME! MORE THAN EVER!

IF SOMETHING EVER TROUBLES YOU KOUJI
JUST COME TO MY HOUSE!
KYOUICHI-KUN
Why did I forget about that?
Why am I remembering this just now?
Why is he leaving again?
KOUJI
YOU'VE BEEN SPACING OUT FOR A WHILE NOW.

Because you were here waiting for my brother at the park, it wasn't lonely.
IS THAT YOUR HOUSE OVER HERE, KOUJI?
Because you're here, I can enjoy my job.
I'M THE IDIOT HERE...
IS THE COLD GETTING TO YOU?
HEY— KOUJI?
A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED AFTER THAT... I MUST'VE NOT WANTED TO REMEMBER THAT TIME...
!?
KYOUICHI-KUN...

KOUJI?
WHA- WHAT!! CALLING ME BY THAT OLD NICKNAME A- ANYWAY IT'S KIND OF EMBARRASSING WHEN YOU SAY IT!
YEAH, WAKUI-SENPAI WENT AND GOT IT FOR ME! AND WE JUST STARTED TALKING AND...
I WAS ALMOST ABOUT TO GO GET YOU TOO.
DO YOU REMEMBER? BACK AT THAT OLD PARK...
OH, NII-CHAN
!!!
AH... NO... I...
I REMEMBER, MY LITTLE BROTHER STILL TALKS WITH YOU EVEN NOW?
OH- YEAH I DO!

SENPAI-
FWIP
I'LL BE LEAVING NOW...
It's fine.
It's fine.
I'M TRULY SORRY FOR NOT KEEPING IN CONTACT!
BE CAREFUL...
VROOOOOOM...
CLICK
SEE YA.
IT'D BE NICE IF HE'D STAY FOR TEA AT LEAST.
MHM...

IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THAT KID LIKED YOU A LOT BACK THEN.
WELL, WHEN I TOOK YOU WITH ME I COULDN'T LET MYSELF EAT THAT MUCH.
YEAH THAT'S RIGHT.
HE WAS ONE OF THE FEW WHO WOULD CALL ME FAT TO MY FACE...
Or should I say behind my back.
YEAH...
THAT'S TRUE...
YEAH.
WE-WELCOME HOME! YOU GOT PRETTY QUICKLY.
There's coffee here.
Watanabe-san must've gone home already.
Anyway,

I'M GOING TO BE AN UNCLE SOON...
MY BIG BROTHER IS HAVING A SHOTGUN WEDDING.
--WHAT A GUY.
Haruki-san looks very relieved now
ISN'T THAT GREAT, HARUKI-KUN?
I was thinking about whether I'd be able to hold the baby once it was born,
But the sound in my head
Was that of Kyouichi-kun's scooter riding off into the distance.

acme団 Presents:

Sennin Gurushi

Chapter 4

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FIRST LOVE, THEN AFTERWARDS

第3話

KYOUICHI-KUN QUIT HIS JOB SOME MONTHS AGO
THE MENU HAS BEEN CHANGED A FEW TIMES,
AND NEW PART-TIMERS HAVE COME IN.
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY PROBLEMS WITH SCHOOL EITHER.
I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING,
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS...
WATANABE-SAN EVEN TOLD ME THIS MAN'S NAME IN THOSE MONTHS.
NO PICKLES, PLEASE
HIS FIRST NAME IS HIROTAKA.
I'LL BE READY SHORTLY

HIROTAKA-SAN HAS BEEN VERY UPBEAT LATELY.
EVEN HARUKI SAYS THAT TO ME...
Ahaha
BUT PICKLES ACCENT THE FLAVOR, YOU KNOW
YOU KNOW, KOUJI-KUN,
YOU COULD JUST ASK ME "THE USUAL TODAY?"
I'M SO GLAD THAT HE'S HAPPY.
I can't handle them.
BUT REALLY, NO PICKLES
HE RECONCILED WITH HIS LITTLE BROTHER HARUKI,
AND HE'LL SOON BE A FATHER AS WELL AS A NEWLY-WED.
Thank you for your patience!
Enjoy your meal!
YES.
NO, YOU TOO...
HE'S SOFTENED UP EVER SINCE.

I THINK THAT'D BE A GREAT IDEA...
NOW YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF TOO...
YES, ALRIGHT, WELL GOODNIGHT!
MICHIRU-SAN?
YEAH,
WE'VE BEEN CALLING EACH OTHER A LOT LATELY.
MICHIRU-SAN IS WATANABE'S WIFE, AND HARUKI-KUN'S SISTER IN LAW.
WOW, THAT'S GREAT.
SIP
AND INSTEAD OF A LARGE WEDDING RECEPTION, THEY'VE DECIDED TO HAVE A SMALL ONE JUST FOR RELATIVES.
MICHIRU-SAN INSISTED ON HARUKI-SAN PREPARING THE FOOD.
I JUST LOVE DOING THINGS LIKE THIS.
IT'S AMAZING THAT SHE ASKED ME...
AT FIRST...

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS...
I don't want to ruin it for my sister in law,
and I've never cooked for an entire party.
WELL, THAT WAS JUST AT FIRST.
DON'T FORGET ME!
I'D LIKE TO HAVE SOME OF HARUKI-KUN'S FOOD AT THE PARTY TOO
THE PARTY WILL GO GREAT.
HARUKI-KUN IS DOING GREAT AS WELL.
HIS SISTER-IN-LAW IS OVERJOYED BY IT.

I FEEL HAPPY TOO.
AND WHEN I LOOK AT THEM,
AND SO,
MY BROTHER IS ALSO HAPPY.

IT'S BEEN COLD LATELY, SO I HOPE HE HASN'T CAUGHT A FEVER.
I WONDER HOW KYOUICHI-KUN IS.
Good work today!
I DON'T WANT TO ASK HIM ABOUT HOW HE FEELS ABOUT ME NOW, BUT-
WHEN I TEXT HIM, HE SENDS MOSTLY SHORT REPLIES.

BUT I STILL FEEL LIKE I'M MISSING SOMETHING.

I MIGHT BE AFRAID OF WHAT HIS ANSWER MIGHT BE...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING I SHOULD ASK...
BUT WHAT REALLY SHOCKED ME
RIGHT NOW IS WHEN THEY START STUDYING HARD FOR EXAMS ANYWAY...
HE HAS TO PRETTY MUCH MAKE UP FOR ALL OF THEM
AND NOW POOR SAKAUCHI-KUN HAS TO CHANGE SHIFTS TO MAKE IT WORK...
WAKU-CHAN DECIDED TO QUIT THIS MONTH.
WAS GOING TO WORK AFTER THAT NIGHT.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU TWO?
Really?
Well he is preparing for exams
OH, BUT RIGHT AFTER, HE LEFT TO GIVE SAKAUCHI-KUN HIS CELL PHONE THAT HE FORGOT.
NO.

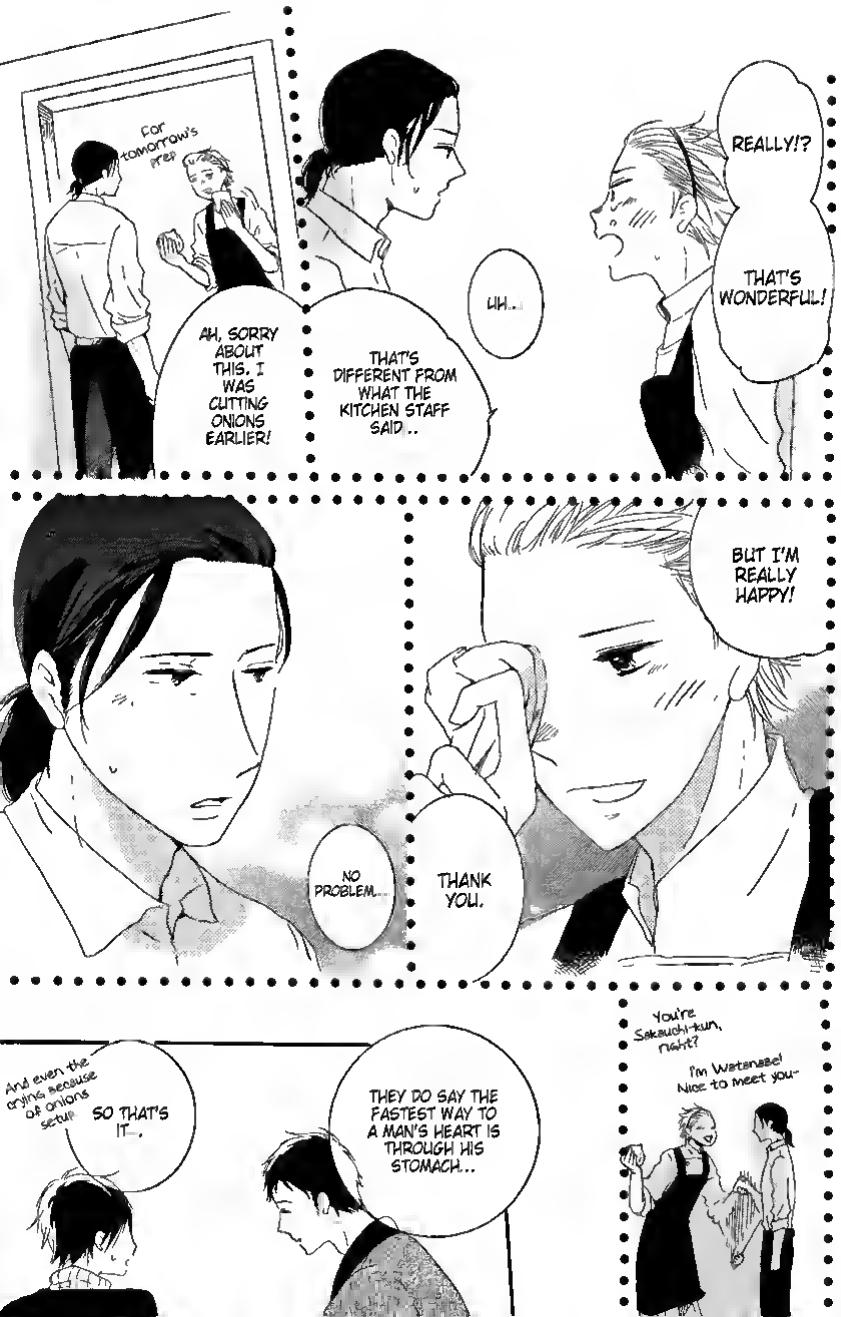
Uneasiness
YES
IF FEELS LONELY WITHOUT HIM HERE REALLY
I SEE... WAKA-CHAN REALLY DOTED ON YOU, TOO.
He'd even help you during your shifts
Y- YES, BUT NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY...
HE TOLD ME,
"IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ANYTHING, JUST CALL ME!"
HE SAID THAT TO ME.
KYOUICHI-KUN, I...
I FEEL UNEASY WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE.
AS IF I COULD SAY THAT TO HIM NOW...

I WONDER IF HE'S WATCHING RIGHT NOW— HE EVEN INVITED ME TO GO SEE THEM
sit
OH, THESE ARE THE GUYS ON THAT DVD YOU BORROWED.
THEY'RE REALLY FUNNY.
YOU'RE BACK!?
AH...THESE GUYS ARE ON TV A LOT NOW.
YEAH, I FELL ASLEEP...
HARUKI SAID HE'D BE LATE BECAUSE OF WORK.
LOOK AT THIS.
THESE WERE TAKEN A WHILE AGO,
BUT THEY ONLY JUST CAME IN TODAY.
IT FEELS WEIRD...
HIS WIFE
IS SO BEAUTIFUL...

HER BELLY IS HUGE NOW - SHE'S PROBABLY DUE SOON. .
STARE
peel peel
YOU'RE RIGHT
...HUH!?
...WHAT?
Have some orange
ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY HARUKI-KUN?
BUT WE AREN'T PLANNING ON IT
YOU WOULD...? I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
Hmm..
I KNOW. BUT CAN'T YOU GUYS ADOPT?
KOUJI, IN JAPAN...
BUT WE COULD SLOWLY TALK IT OUT.
I'D BECOME AN UNCLE, EVEN THOUGH I'M YOUNGER THAN HIM, RIGHT?
BUT IF YOU GUYS WANTED A CHILD
Where is this coming from..?
?

BY THE WAY, HOW DID YOU GUYS START GOING OUT?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE NEVER ASKED
WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THESE QUESTIONS?
WELL...HE WON OVER MY STOMACH.
YOUR STOMACH...
AND I ALREADY TOLD YOU HOW I MET HIM AT MY OLD JOB.
YEAH.
THE FOOD THERE WAS ALWAYS PRETTY GOOD, EXCEPT FOR THIS ONE DAY.
IT WAS TASTY AS USUAL, BUT IT SEEMED WAY BETTER THAN NORMAL.
Can I have seconds?
SO I ASKED, AND THEY TOLD ME THAT THEIR EMPLOYEE, HARUKI, MADE IT ON A WHIM THAT TIME.

GOOD WORK TODAY.. ABOUT TODAY'S FOOD-
I WANTED TO TELL HIM THAT IT WAS REALLY GOOD,
SO I WENT TO THE KITCHEN AND CALLED OUT TO HIM
ANYWAY,
YES?
I CAME TO TELL YOU THAT IT WAS AMAZING...
UH
NO..
HOW WAS IT? WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT!?
BA-THUMP


For tomorrow's prep
AH, SORRY ABOUT THIS. I WAS CUTTING ONIONS EARLIER!
THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THE KITCHEN STAFF SAID..
UH...
REALLY!?
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
NO PROBLEM...
THANK YOU.
BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY!
And even the crying because of onions setup
SO THAT'S IT...
THEY DO SAY THE FASTEST WAY TO A MAN'S HEART IS THROUGH HIS STOMACH...
You're Sakauchi-kun, right?
I'm Watanabe! Nice to meet you~

...SORRY.
IT DIDN'T GO WELL AT FIRST.
IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO CONFESS TO HIM.
BUT ALTHOUGH WE WORKED AT THE SAME PLACE AND GOT ALONG, WE BOTH STILL HAD OUR PROBLEMS.
IT'S SORT OF LIKE...
IT WAS WHEN HE WAS HAVING ISSUES WITH HIS FAMILY
I PERSISTED ON TRYING TO WIN HIM OVER, AND EVENTUALLY HE CAME AROUND.
AND I HAD MY HEART BROKEN, BUT I COULDN'T GIVE UP ON HIM.
SO DO YOU LIKE SOMEONE, OR WHAT?
I SEE...
munch
HOW KYOUICHI-KUN AND I ARE—JUST A BIT.

AND? DID YOU CONFESS?
OHH... SO YOU FINALLY DO.
HE DID, BUT I DIDN'T REPLY...
What do you mean, "finally"
.....
gulp
BUT...
WE CAN'T EVEN SEE EACH OTHER..
I knew you'd say that
I CAN'T IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES
SO YOU WANT TO TELL-

OF COURSE I WILL...
SO YOU WON'T MEET WITH HIM AGAIN?
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF GUY TO WANT SOMETHING REALLY BAD, BUT...
AND IF YOU END UP CRYING, HARUKI WILL MAKE SOMETHING FOR SURE.
NII-CHAN..
IF YOU LEAVE IT JUST LIKE THAT
YOU'LL STILL BE HUNG OVER IT WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.
AND IF HE'S A GUY, I'LL MAKE SURE TO BEAT HIM UP
!!

WELCOME HOME, HARUKI-KUN...
I'M HOME!
Come under the kotatsu
GA-SHUNK
.....
OH, HARUKI'S BACK.
DON'T GET WORKED UP OVER IT NOW.
WHAT HAPPENED?
.....
ON MY WAY HOME, MY MOM CALLED ME AND..
THE BABY WAS BORN!
IT'S A LITTLE GIRL!
I'VE BECOME AN UNCLE...!!

AND AS I LISTENED TO HARUKI-KUN'S NEWS
AS MY BROTHER SPOKE
IT'S OKAY FOR TODAY, MICHIRU-SAN IS PROBABLY JUST RECOVERING.
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU NOT TO GO? THE HOSPITAL IS REALLY FAR.
EHEHEHE, THANKS!
WOW! CONGRAT-ULATIONS!
WOW ..
AND I BECAME VERY TENSE.
MY HEART WAS RACING
BUT HE NEVER REPLIED.
AND WHEN I DECIDED TO CALL HIM THE NEXT DAY
ALL I GOT WAS
「THIS PHONE IS EITHER TURNED OFF OR OUT OF RANGE」
BUT
SO I DECIDED TO TEXT KYOUICHI-KUN.
「I WANT TO SEE YOU」

BUT I'D BE HAPPY
WITH AT LEAST FIVE MINUTES OF HIS TIME
RIGHT NOW, HE MUST BE STUDYING REALLY HARD FOR HIS EXAMS...
I'VE DONE SOMETHING AWFUL TO KYOUICHI-KUN...
BEING CUT OFF REALLY HURTS...
I WAS TOLD THAT I WASN'T LIKE MY BROTHER, BUT
SINCE LONG AGO,
I HAD MY HEART BROKEN
BUT I COULDN'T GIVE UP ON HIM.
I GUESS I ENDED UP JUST LIKE HIM ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
AND WHEN IT GOES BADLY, HARUKI-KUN WILL MAKE ME SOMETHING...
I'LL BE PERSISTENT JUST THIS ONCE.
THAT'S WHY I'LL END IT WITH THIS.

OH, YOU'RE FROM T HIGHSCHOOL!
EXCUSE ME, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
IT'S NOT THAT I'M WAITING FOR IT...
BEING AT A DIFFERENT SCHOOL MAKES ME NERVOUS...
YOU'RE ONE OF HIS FRIENDS?
I'M LOOKING FOR WAKUI KYOUICHI, A THIRD YEAR...
HE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT.
I THOUGHT SO.
HE FELL OFF HIS SCOOTER SOME TIME AGO.
YOU COULDN'T REACH HIS CELL EITHER?
REALLY... HE'S IN MY CLASS.
NO, I COULDN'T

"HE'S IN ROOM 532, ON THE 5TH FLOOR."
"IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS BUT HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL."
MY HEART STARTED TO BEAT AS FAST AS IT DID YESTERDAY.
BUT FOR A DIFFERENT REASON.
HUH?
IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IS?
IF I REMEMBER, THIS HOSPITAL
huff huff
WATANABE-SAN...!
I WAS RIGHT...
WELL, IF IT ISN'T KOUJI-KUN!
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE MY DAUGHTER?
ARA~ IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, KOUJI-KUN!

LOOK,
YOUR BIG BROTHER KOUJI CAME HERE TO SEE YOU~
SHE'S NAMED RUMI.
SHE SAYS IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!
WOOW~
I gave birth to such an adorable one!
I'M MICHIRU-
SORRY FOR HIROTAKA-KUN'S STUBBORNNESS ON PICKLES!
OH, IT'S FINE...
...HI THERE,
RUMI-CHAN.
CAN I TOUCH HER...?
OF COURSE.
BUT AREN'T YOU HERE FOR SOMETHING ELSE?
FOR EXAMPLE, A SICK PATIENT OR...
YOU CAME ALONE, RIGHT?
WE WANTED TO GIVE A WARM WELCOME,
...KOUJI -KUN.

HUH!?
YOU CAME HERE TO VISIT THEM?
I'M.. I'M SORRY FOR GOING SO SOON
BUT I FOUND OUT THAT ONE OF MY FRIENDS IS HERE.
JEEZ, DID YOU EVEN ASK HIM, HIRO-KUN!?
NO, NO, I'M SORRY FOR NOT SPEAKING UP EARLIER
I'M SO SORRY...I JUST, ON IMPULSE .
YOU NEED TO SEE THEM NOW!
THEN YOU SHOULD...
I'M A LITTLE LESS RESTLESS NOW THOUGH,
BECAUSE I WAS ABLE TO SEE YOU ALL.
THANK YOU, I HEARD HE'S DOING OKAY ACTUALLY.
IS YOUR FRIEND ALL RIGHT?

BE SURE TO BRING ATSUNARI-KUN AND HARUKI NEXT TIME.
OH, KOUJI-KUN,
REALLY? COME ANYTIME.
I WILL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YES
WOAH, THAT WAS SUCH A SURPRISE
BUT THAT WAS GREAT,
I SORT OF WANTED TO SEE THEM TOO.

5 3 2
Wakui Kyo
EXCUSE ME
BEING ALONE IN A THREE PERSON ROOM.
HERE IT IS
UWAAHH!?

WHA... WHY!?
HUH!?
I DIDN'T THINK I HIT MY HEAD THAT HARD, WHY AM I HALLUCINATING ?!
thunk
I'M NOT A HALLUCINATION, LET ME GRAB A CHAIR.
...HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?
I ASKED SOME OF YOUR CLASSMATES AT YOUR SCHOOL.
WHEEER
THUNK
THUNK
FWSH
I WAS PASSING THE WATER BANK AND I FELL OFF MY SCOOTER AND HIT SOME ROCKS,
AND THEN I FELL INTO THE FREEZING RIVER.
I'M COVERED IN A LOT OF BANDAGES BUT IT'S NOTHING TOO BAD. AND I'M GETTING OUT SOON.
AND HOW DID YOU GET IN THAT CONDITION...!!
IT REALLY SURPRISED ME, YOU KNOW!

...BUT YOU WOULD ALWAYS FALL DOWN WHEN WE PLAYED AT THE PARK, SO..
.....
It's like a bad soap opera
ISN'T GETTING INTO AN ACCIDENT THE WORST THING FOR A STUDENT PREPARING FOR EXAMS ..?
Falling into the bank was pretty harsh.
YEAH, BUT I CAN STILL STUDY FOR MY EXAMS HERE.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER BACK THEN...
.....
...I BEGAN TO REMEMBER.
I ALSO REMEMBER HOW YOU NEVER GAVE ME YOUR ADDRESS EVEN THOUGH YOU TOLD ME I COULD COME OVER.
AH... YEAH...
YEAH.
BUT I CAME HERE MYSELF THIS TIME.
HEY, KOUJI.

WHY DID YOU COME HERE TO SEE ME?
YOU KNOW, I...
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE INTERESTED IN THE NO-PICKLES MAN,
BUT YOU COMING HERE TO SEE ME MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY.
YES... WELL, YOU COULD SAY I WAS JUST A FAN OF HIS....
WE... WELL IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE HIM OR ANYTHING.
I'm really happy
BUT, I SAID SOME THINGS TO YOU THAT CAUSED TROUBLE
SO I'M SORRY YOU THOUGHT THAT WAY.
BUT I

...BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
I FELT LONELY SINCE I COULDN'T.
AND YOU WOULDN'T REPLY TO MY TEXTS
SO I THOUGHT "WHAT DO I DO NOW?"
THAT'S BECAUSE MY PHONE FELL IN THE WATER...
KOUJI
SO, WHY DID YOU SEE ME IF YOU WERE LONELY?
KYOUICHI-KUN
WANTS BOTH MY WORDS
AND MY HEART.
TELL ME

AND
I GUESS I COULD
I-
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, SENPAI.
GIVE THEM TO HIM.
ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW HOW VERY MUCH
SORRY, AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
AH, DAMNIT
pull
SAYING SORRY!?
WHY ARE YOU

I'M
SO GLAD I'M ALIVE..
HAHA
I WAS MOVED.
SENPAI..?
THAT'S RIGHT,
KYOUICHI-KUN.

UH...?
Grin
.....
I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING TO YOU AND CONFESSING AGAIN IF I PASSED MY EXAMS,
BUT I DON'T NEED TO ANY MORE.
WAS HE ALWAYS THIS CUTE...?
happy
happy
THE TRUTH IS-
Even though I was in an accident
I'm perfectly fine now!
I'M GOING TO GIVE IT MY ALL!
YEAH! I'M READY TO GO!
THAT'S GREAT AND ALL,
BUT JUST KEEP CALM FOR NOW.

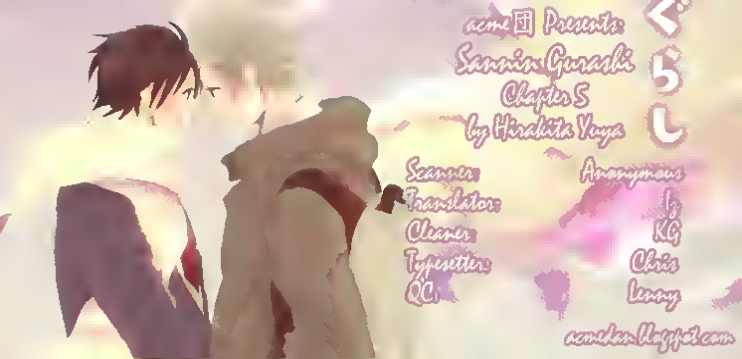
AND WHEN YOU GET BETTER
AND YOU'RE DONE WITH EXAMS, COME PLAY AT MY HOUSE SOMETIME.
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FAMILY.
IT'LL BE FINE.
Grab
IS IT OKAY!?
AH...
YES.
.....
OKAY.

IN THAT SINGLE INSTANT
I'VE KIND OF ALWAYS WANTED TO DO IT ANYWAY...
YOU'LL GET ALONG JUST FINE.

I DON'T KNOW, BUT
THIS MIGHT BE MY FIRST TIME FEELING LIKE THIS.
YEAH.
WE WISHED FOR SPRING TO COME QUICKLY.

LOOK, SNOW!
BUT YOU KNOW...
...I SAID IT'LL GO FINE
...YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF YOUR BROTHER?
HUH?

end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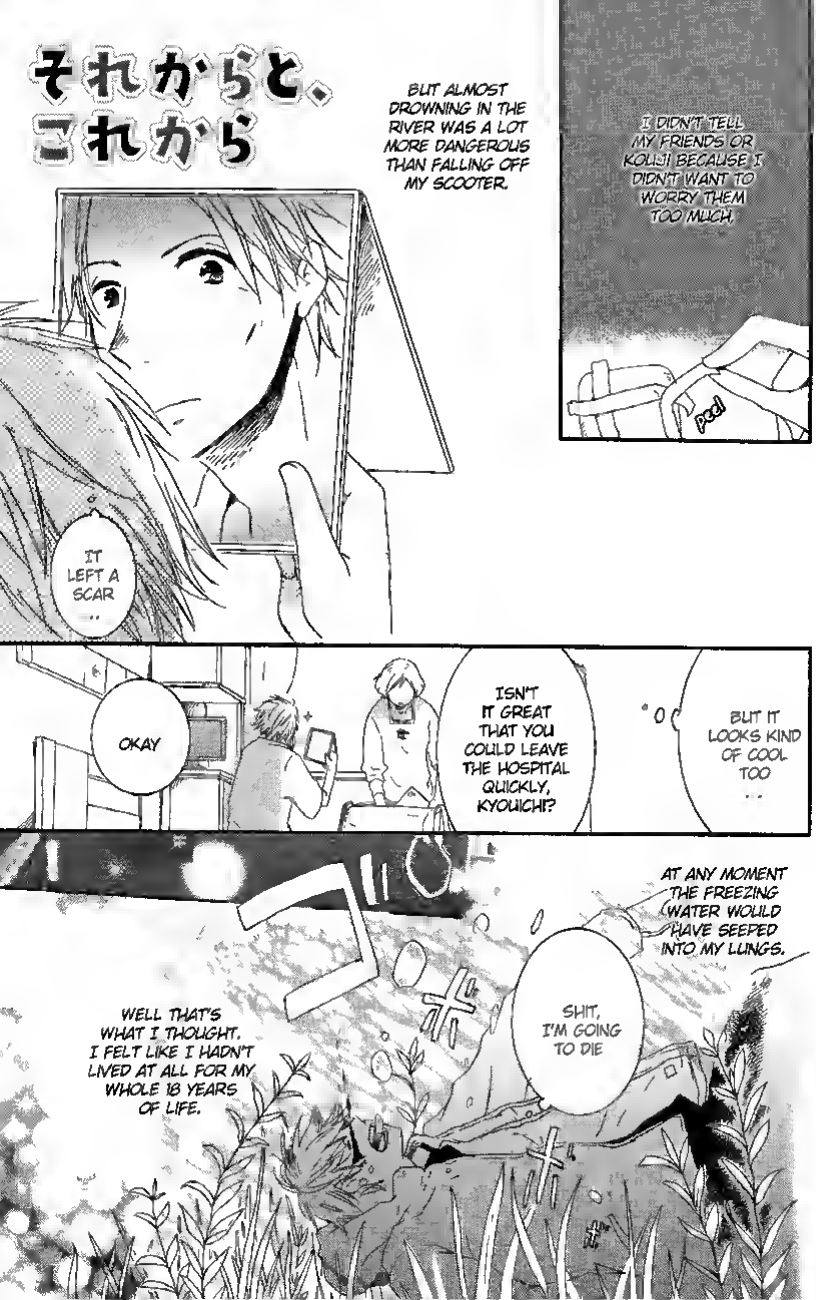
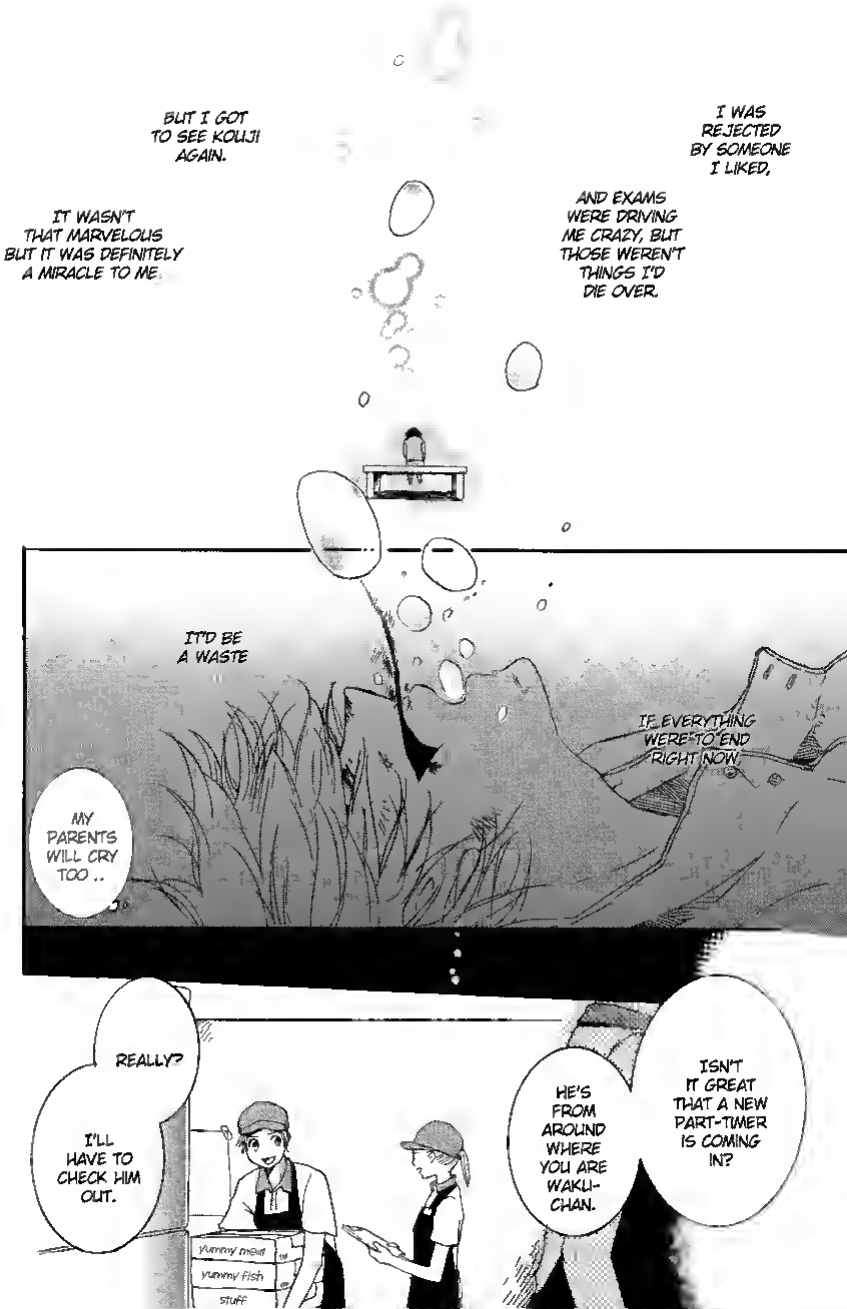
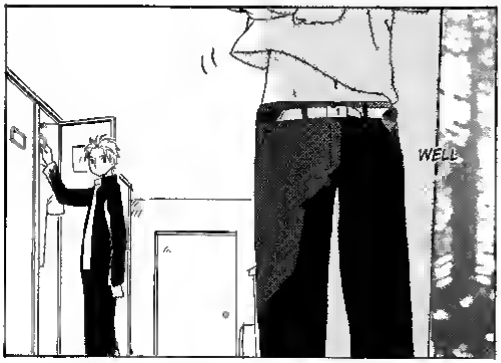

I DIDN'T TELL MY FRIENDS OR KOUJI BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY THEM TOO MUCH.
Pad
BUT ALMOST DROWNING IN THE RIVER WAS A LOT MORE DANGEROUS THAN FALLING OFF MY SCOOTER.
IT LEFT A SCAR ...
OKAY
ISN'T IT GREAT THAT YOU COULD LEAVE THE HOSPITAL QUICKLY, KYOUICHI?
BUT IT LOOKS KIND OF COOL TOO ...
AT ANY MOMENT THE FREEZING WATER WOULD HAVE SEEPED INTO MY LUNGS.
SHIT, I'M GOING TO DIE
WELL THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. I FELT LIKE I HADN'T LIVED AT ALL FOR MY WHOLE 18 YEARS OF LIFE.


BUT I GOT TO SEE KOUJI AGAIN.
I WAS REJECTED BY SOMEONE I LIKED,
IT WASN'T THAT MARVELOUS BUT IT WAS DEFINITELY A MIRACLE TO ME.
AND EXAMS WERE DRIVING ME CRAZY, BUT THOSE WEREN'T THINGS I'D DIE OVER.
IT'D BE A WASTE
IF EVERYTHING WERE TO END RIGHT NOW.
MY PARENTS WILL CRY TOO ..
REALLY?
I'LL HAVE TO CHECK HIM OUT.
HE'S FROM AROUND WHERE YOU ARE WAKU-CHAN.
ISN'T IT GREAT THAT A NEW PART-TIMER IS COMING IN?
Yummy bread
Yummy Fish
stuff

MY NAME IS SAKAUCHI KOUJI.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU!
SO IT'S THIS GUY, HUH?
I THINK I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
KOUJI.
KOUJI ...
SAKA-UCHI...
SAKAUCHI KOUJI, SAKAUCHI KOUJI-KUN ..
...AH!
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED.
Kyou
ichi
kuuun!

KOUJI LOOKED LIKE HE DIDN'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT ME, THOUGH.
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT WE'D MEET THERE?
I WAS REALLY, REALLY HAPPY.

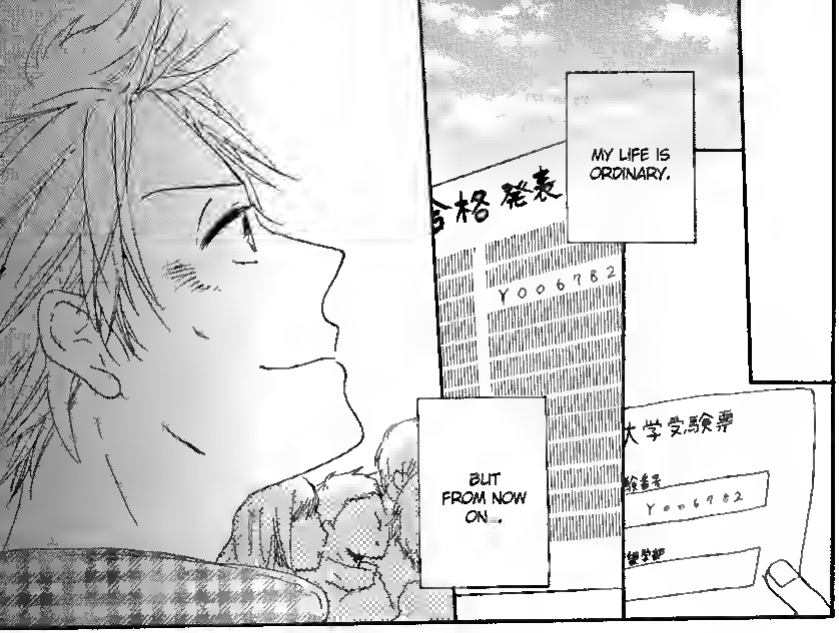


WE GOT ALONG TOGETHER JUST LIKE WE USED TO.

BUT IN REALITY,

I KIND OF WANTED THAT.
BUT THEN HE SHOWED UP.
IT'S THAT GUY, THIS IS THE 60TH TIME HE'S ASKED FOR NO PICKLES.
I QUIT MY JOB.
I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE KOUJI, AND IT WAS ACTUALLY EVEN MORE PAINFUL AND LONELY THAN WHEN IT HAPPENED AS KIDS.
IF HE STARTED GOING OUT WITH THAT NO-PICKLES GUY, WHAT DO I DO?
I SHOULD JUST BEAT HIM UP IF I SEE HIM ON THE STREETS OR SOMETHING.

I WAS THINKING OF JUST SCREWING IT ALL AND GIVING IN BACK THERE.
I GUESS I WAS ACTING NAIVE, AND GOT IN THAT ACCIDENT
I STARTED TO WONDER IF I WAS GOING TO DO WELL ON MY EXAMS.
IT'S BECAUSE ...
I LOVE YOU, SENPAI
I'M ...
REALLY
HAPPY TO BE ALIVE


MY LIFE IS ORDINARY.
合格発表
Y006782
BUT FROM NOW ON...
大学受験票
Y006782

I'LL BE FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH MY HOPES AND MY LOVE.
THAT'S GREAT!
YEAH.
AH.
YOUR HAND IS COLD.

YEAH.
YOU DID GREAT.
straight-student
CONGRATULATIONS ON PASSING!
PEOPLE WILL COME...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT
BY THE WAY, I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO TELL YOU.
THEY TOLD ME I COULD COME BACK TO WORK NEXT MONTH.
The manager was very understanding.
OH, I SEE

BUT I WANTED TO EARN MONEY SO WE COULD GO ON A TRIP TOGETHER ...!!
YEAH, LET'S DO ONE NEXT YEAR AND THE YEARS AFTER THAT.
BUT... I WAS PLANNING ON QUITTING SOON?
No way!
THIS TIME I'M THE ONE STUDYING FOR EXAMS.
...
OKAY?
he's smirking
...
I GUESS IT'S MY TURN TO HELP YOU NOW!
I will.
Go for it!!
YUP.
YOU BETTER!
WE COULD GO TO A TEMPLE THIS TIME
and buy you the same charm that I have
SURE.
AH,
KYOUICHI-KUN.

I HAVE TO GO HOME NOW.
AL-READY!?
YEAH.
I WANT TO TELL MY MOM AND DAD IN PERSON.
ABOUT YOUR ACCEPTANCE.
RIGHT NOW, KOU?!
HE TOLD ME THAT HE LIVES WITH
HIS BROTHER AND HIS BROTHER'S LOVER
...
I GET IT.
WHEN I TRIED TO ASK HIM ABOUT HIS PARENTS,
ALL HE SAID WAS THAT THEY DON'T LIVE IN HIS HOUSE ANYMORE
SEE YOU, THEN.
I HAVEN'T ASKED HIM ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT IT

I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HIS FACE.
HE'S LIVING A CALM, STABLE LIFE
I'LL TEXT YOU LATER!
KAY.
AND SOME DAYS LATER,
AND I WAS INVITED OVER TO THE SAKAUCHI HOUSEHOLD.
HE SAID TO ME:
"I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FAMILY!"
AND HIS LOVER WAS A MAN, TOO... SO I GET IT NOW...
You need to eat more! You're young, so make sure to take some more!
IT SURPRISED ME THAT WHEN I CAME OVER, THEY TOLD ME THAT NO-PICKLES MAN WAS HIS BROTHER'S LOVER'S BROTHER.
Why are you acting like an overbearing grandmother?

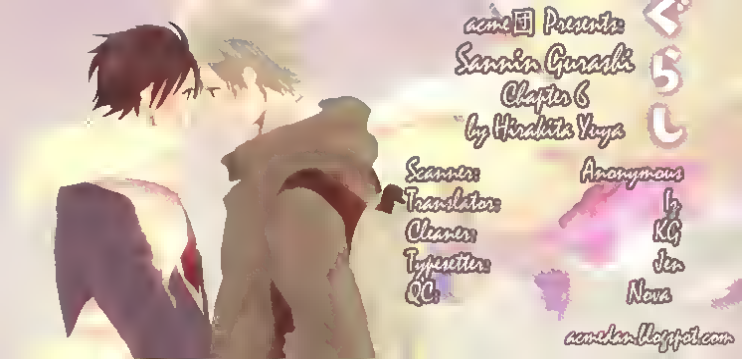
"IT'LL GO OVER FINE WITH MY FAMILY"
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY HE SAID THAT.
SO IT WAS LIKE THIS.
I get it.
EXCUSE ME... THIS IS REALLY-
OH.
IT IS, ISN'T IT?
WHOA! THIS IS REALLY, REALLY GOOD!
THIS IS DEFINITELY DELICIOUS.
EAT UP MORE!
and praise me more!
OH, YEAH,
SORRY, BUT KOU-CHAN COULD YOU HELP ME IN THE KITCHEN FOR A SECOND?
UH, SURE.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TALK ABOUT
AND KOUJI DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW, EITHER
I don't know what to do

Just wait
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE OUR GUEST, SO SIT DOWN.
IS THERE ANYTHING I COULD...?
OH NO...
...
AH... OKAY, THEN?
Stop being so tense
KOUJI ALREADY TOLD ME EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.
... EXCUSE ME...
O-OH, THANKS.
HERE,
EAT THIS TOO, IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL RE-FRESHED.

KOUJI NEVER ONCE COMPLAINED ABOUT ME BRINGING HARUKI HERE.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BAD TO SAY TO YOU, ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH KOUJI, EITHER.
BUT YOU WILL KEEP MY LITTLE BROTHER PRECIOUS, WON'T YOU?
...!
WHEN KOUJI TURNS TWENTY,
LET'S ALL DRINK TOGETHER.
LET'S ALL DRINK TOGETHER.
YES, I WILL.

AFTER THAT,
KOUJI'S BROTHER AND HARUKI-SAN SAID 「WE HAVEN'T GONE OUT JUST THE TWO OF US IN A WHILE」
We're going nooooooow!
SO,
AND THE TWO OF US WERE LEFT TO WATCH THE HOUSE.
See you laterrrrrrrr!
THIS MEANS ...
MY STOMACH WAS COMPLETELY FULL
... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

WHAT SHOULD WE?
I KIND OF WANT TO SEE YOUR ROOM ...
AND SO, FROM NOW ON
M'KAY.
BOTH MY HEART AND MY STOMACH
WILL BE FILLED TO THE BRIM.
Sweet!
IT'S OVER HERE.
end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Sannin Gurashi
Chapter 6
by Hirakata Yuya
Scanner: Anonymous
Translator: Iz
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Typesetter: Jen
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Pinky Promise

My relationship is over.

I was dumped by a younger man that I had gone out with for three years.
I'M NOT LIVING A RESPECTABLE LIFE.
I FOUND A WOMAN THAT I LOVE.
SORRY.
He said to my face that those three years were worthless. I'm glad I punched the bastard.
Yet somehow,

He's still young.
Of course he'll change his mind.
It hurt.
I cried.
I felt that I was unworthy of being a teacher, being as horribly weak as I was.
but I never wanted to be dumped because of that.
Of course a woman is better for him,
He and I were both men.
heal from it.
I started to
With the help of the children at my workplace,
As time passed,

And a few months later,
finding a new love.
I started to think about
As I finally got over it,
<SFX: SLAP>
on a Sunday,
I HOPE YOU DIE!!
I'VE HAD IT!
I saw a man get hit by a woman.
Our eyes met and
at that moment,

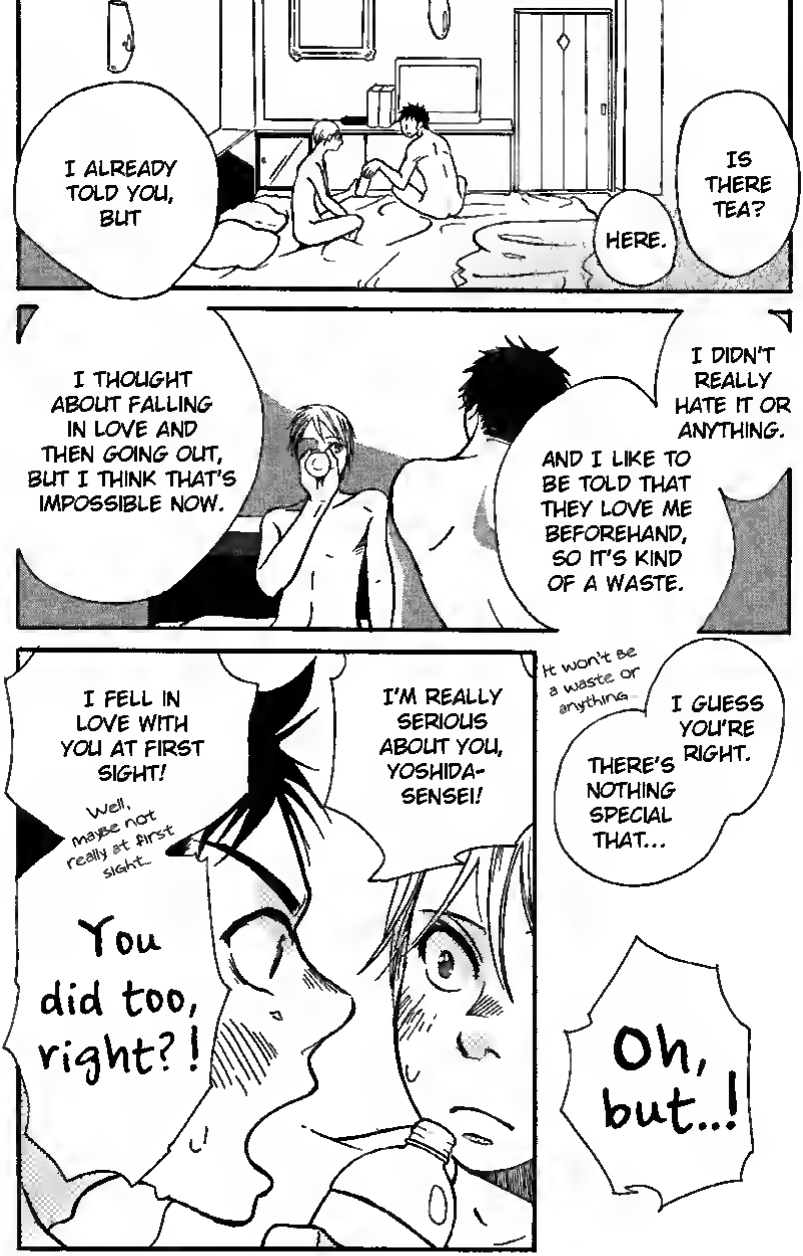
a new love
as quick as lightning,
ended up being born.
This boy
HELLO.
YOSHIDA-SENSEL.. UH...
HELLO!
...ARE YOU OKAY?
He's a good big brother.
His name is Machii Akio-kun.
sometimes comes to pick up his little sister, Yayoi-chan, from the nursery.

He must've done something awful to have been dumped in such a dramatic way.
Even so,
He looks dependable and cute on top of that.
He's a high school student...
I'M FINE, I'M FINE.
YOU CAUGHT ME AT A BAD TIME.
YAYOI IS TAKEN CARE OF.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU SHOPPING?
YEAH.
I'LL CARRY THAT FOR YOU.
HUH?
OH, I'M OKAY.
...
YOU SAW THAT, RIGHT? I JUST GOT DUMPED.
IT'S A BIT OF WEIRD TIMING,
BUT... COULD YOU PLEASE COMFORT ME, YOSHIDA-SENSEI?

PLEASE.
At that moment, didn't you?
felt it
You also
But couldn't you
at least
go a little slower?
That's what I thought.

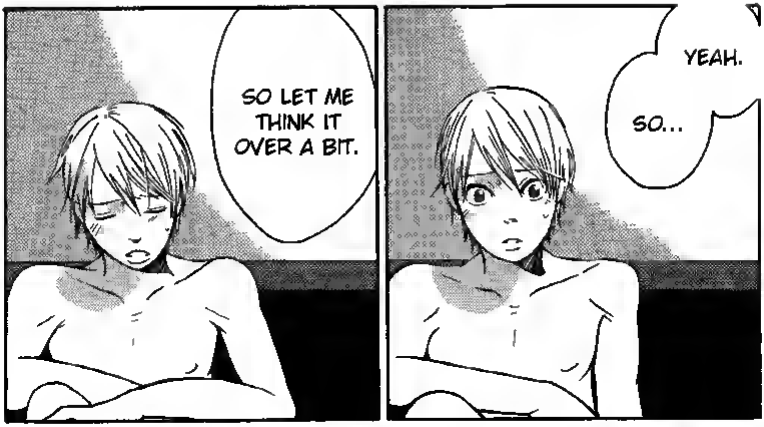
YOU'RE NOT THAT OLD, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE YOUNG.
I'M TWENTY-THREE.
It's still bright outside. Forgive me, Yayoi-chan and their parents...
Whoa
Nah
COME ON, SIX YEARS ISN'T THAT BIG OF A DIFFERENCE.
HMM? I DON'T...
Ah...
He's so young, using such great force and being so inexperienced...

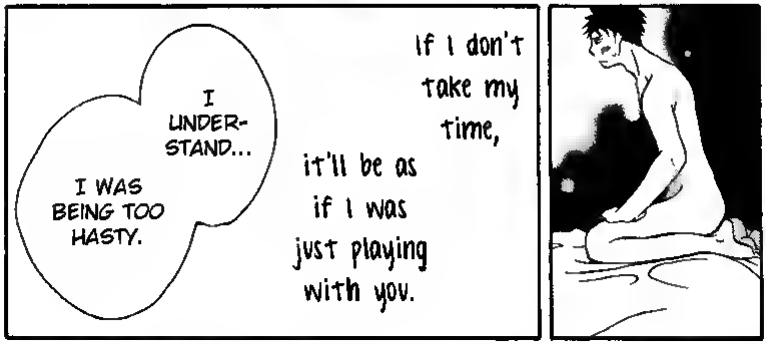
Akio-kun, who was just with a woman earlier,
You know,
Ah...
although I barely know you and my wounds have just healed...
it quickly came to this.
how do you really feel?
WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
I FIGURED SHE WOULD DUMP ME ANYWAY.
WELL,
clink


I ALREADY TOLD YOU, BUT
IS THERE TEA?
HERE.
I THOUGHT ABOUT FALLING IN LOVE AND THEN GOING OUT, BUT I THINK THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOW.
I DIDN'T REALLY HATE IT OR ANYTHING.
AND I LIKE TO BE TOLD THAT THEY LOVE ME BEFOREHAND, SO IT'S KIND OF A WASTE.
I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU AT FIRST SIGHT!
Well, maybe not really at first sight...
You did too, right?!
I'M REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT YOU, YOSHIDA-SENSEI!
It won't be a waste or anything.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL THAT...
Oh, but..!

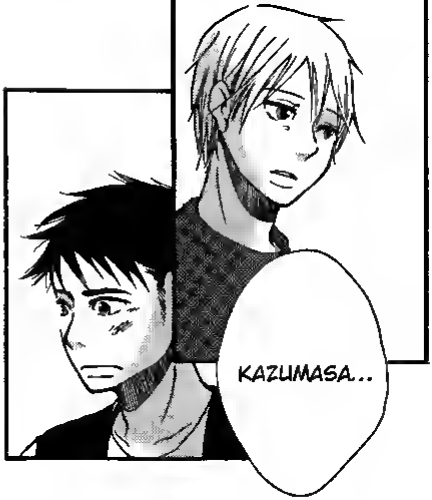
BUT IF MY PARTNER IS YOU, SENSEI, I DON'T MIND.
I'M NOT EXACTLY A HOMO,
COULD THIS BE FATE?! I MUST SOUND GIRLY RIGHT NOW!
someday
he'll change his mind about me.
I wonder if
AH, AKIO-KUN.
THUD
HEY.
WHEN DO YOU WANT TO MEET AGAIN? SUNDAY?
OH, AND GIVE ME YOUR PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL.
And then
he'll leave me behind.

I thought I'd be fine.
WAIT A SEC...
Even though...
BUT BEFORE THAT, TELL ME YOUR FIRST NAME
SO WE CAN GO OUT WITH EACH OTHER.
You're saying this now?!
Wha?!
YOU'RE JUST A RELATIVE OF ONE OF MY KIDS...
DIDN'T YOU GET THAT FEELING WHEN OUR EYES MET, TOO...?
SO YOU DON'T LIKE TO MIX WORK WITH YOUR PERSONAL LIFE? DOES THAT EVEN MATTER NOW?


SO LET ME THINK IT OVER A BIT.
YEAH.
SO...


I UNDER-STAND...
I WAS BEING TOO HASTY.
If I don't take my time,
it'll be as if I was just playing with you.

How embarrass-ing...
YOU KNOW,
COULD YOU STILL TELL ME YOUR FIRST NAME?



After that, several times a month...

Every day,

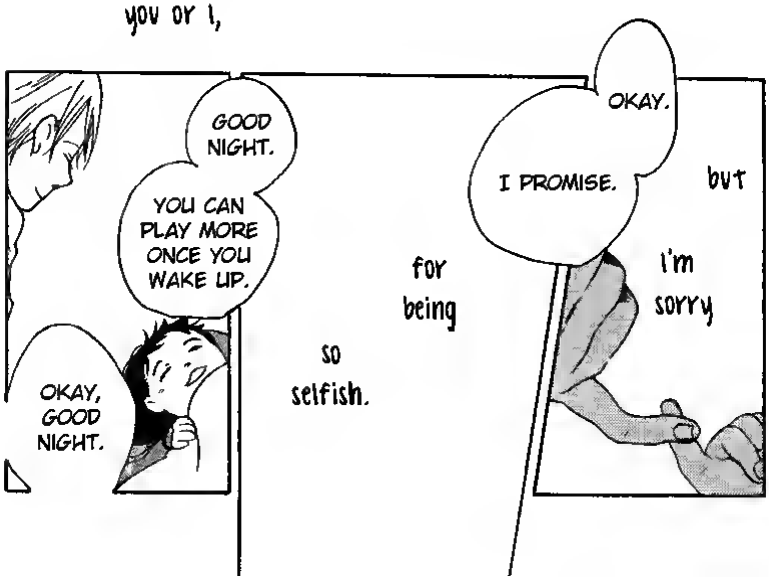
I HAVE MY REASONS.
And sometimes
he would show me
step
Good morning!
I Don't caaare!
...
his eyes, burning beautifully.

I realized that
I wanted to see them more.
Maybe he's been
Good mooorning!
staring at me since this morning.
HAVE A NICE DAY!
LATER.
THANK YOU FOR TODAY!
It's small, but something's there!
In the end,
if I'm able to forget my old love and begin anew...

slide
rustle
rustle
YAYOI-CHAN, WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?
Ha
I LIKE THE PRETTY ORANGE COLOR OF MY BLANKET.
UM, YOSHIDA-SENSEI?
SHH...
YES?
IT'S ABOUT AKIO-NIICHAN.
YAWN
I THINK YOU TWO SHOULD GET ALONG.
HE SIGHS A LOT WHEN YAYOI IS AROUND,
BUT NII-CHAN TOLD ME NOT TO TELL YOU.
HE'S PROBABLY MAD
'CAUSE PEOPLE SIGH WHEN THEY'RE MAD.

It can't be helped,

neither you or I,



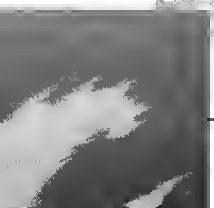
That lightning bolt is still burning in me.

It's growing

without any uncertainty...

These feelings of

wanting to touch you.

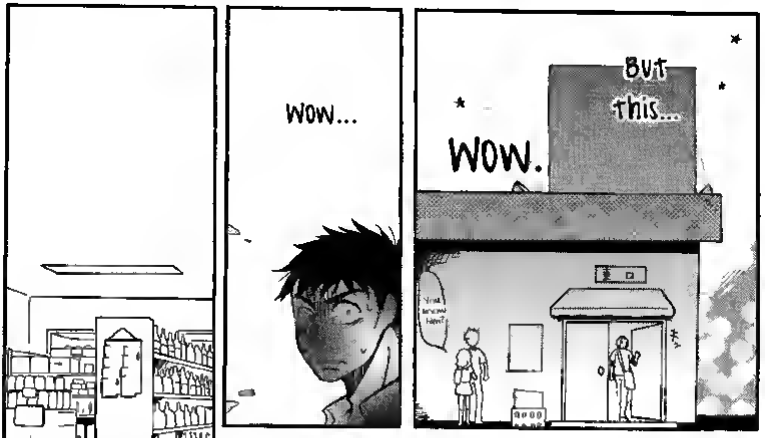


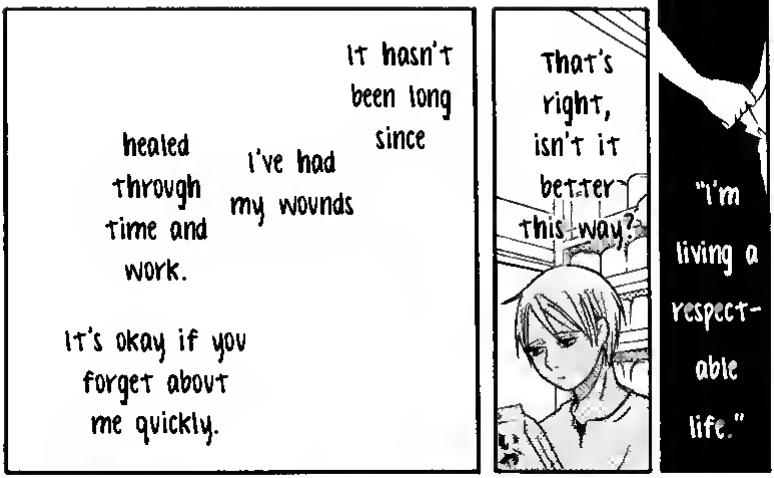
BYE BYE!
SEE YOU LATER!
SOMEONE'S HERE TO PICK YOU UP, YAYOI-CHAN!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING SUNDAY?
IS SHE HERE YET?
Yayoi!
Ah! It's Mama!!
THAT'S FINE.
MY SON COULDN'T MAKE IT...
I'M SORRY,
THANK YOU AS USUAL, YOSHIDA-SENSEI.
WHAT HAPPENED TO NII-CHAN?

SENSEI, IS MY MAMA HERE YET?
GO PLAY WHILE YOU'RE WAITING.
JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
OKAY!
HE TOLD ME TO COME PICK YOU UP MYSELF!
HMM, HE CALLED ME SAYING HE HAD MADE PLANS.
I want to see Akio-kun.
My timing was off.
Today is Friday and I didn't see him on Thursday either.
When I think about it,
that Sunday was a miracle

I'll go drink at home. I won't see Akio-kun tonight.
Today, I'll...
GOOD WORK TODAY.
GOOD WORK TODAY, YOSHIDA-SENSEI.
BYE BYE!
THREE YEARS...
HE'LL BE ABLE TO DRINK IN THREE YEARS.

Another miraculous event...
GOOD EVENING ...
YOU'RE GOING HOME LATE, HUH?
IT'S A NICE NIGHT.
Oh.
There must be a reason why.


Wow...
Wow.
But this...


It hasn't been long since
I've had my wounds healed through time and work.
It's okay if you forget about me quickly.
That's right, isn't it better this way?
"I'm living a respectable life."

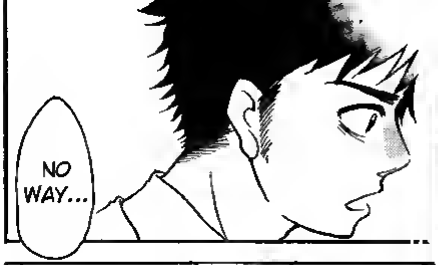
I want to cry a little.
Ah... What am I doing?
tug

Oh!
definitely...
IT'S FAR FROM HERE, BUT I'LL LEAVE THIS WAY...
But I'll definitely be fine.

I thought you'd come this way!
I won't...
Of course.
I THOUGHT SO!
SHE TOLD ME TO COME BACK TO HER, BUT I CUT HER OFF COMPLETELY SO SHE HIT ME AGAIN. IT WAS THE WORST!
Huh?
grab
Anyway, I'll get those for you!
BEFORE WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING! AND I DIDN'T GO TO PICK HER UP EITHER!
AND...
touch
!
I HAVE SOME SERIOUS BAD LUCK.
AND EVEN YOU WERE WATCHING...

YEAH, BUT I'LL STILL ESCORT YOU.
YOUR PLACE ISN'T THIS WAY... IS IT?
WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO ESCORT THAT GIRL INSTEAD?
BUT I CAN'T DRINK IT.
COOL IT DOWN WITH THIS.
EVEN THOUGH YOU LOVE ME SO MUCH.
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT?

GEEZ...
YOU KNOW,
JUST AWHILE AGO,
I WAS DUMPED BY A GUY YOUNGER THAN ME
WE HAD BEEN GOING OUT FOR THREE YEARS AND HE TOLD ME THAT HE COULD ONLY LIVE RESPECTABLY WHEN HE WAS WITH A WOMAN.
THAT MIGHT NOT BE THE ONLY REASON,
BUT IF YOU TURN OUT LIKE THAT, TOO...


NO WAY...

THOSE THINGS DON'T MATTER NOW, DO THEY?
IS IT JUST BECAUSE I'M A KID OR EVEN BECAUSE I'M YAYOI'S BROTHER?

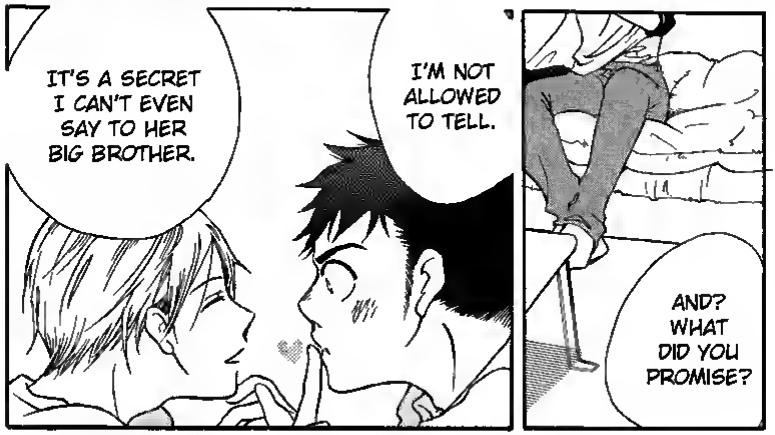
In the end, I can tell you still love me!
WHO CARES!
JUST BECAUSE I'M YOUNGER?

I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE IT.
I THOUGHT I'D BE OKAY,
BUT I CAN'T BE AFTER ALL.

IF KAZUMASA-SAN WOULD LOVE ME, I'D WANT TO BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
I'd be like that until you told me to stop!
SO... UH...
...
I don't know if you'd believe that
THAT YOU CAN KILL ME IF I EVER BETRAY YOU.
I PROMISE YOU
Sorry.
Give me your hand.

...
THAT'S PRETTY EXTREME...
Will you accept?!
That's how much I love you!!
YEAH, SO DON'T DIE JUST YET.
BECAUSE JUST AS YOU'VE SAID, I LOVE YOU.
im-
I'm so relieved.
I WAS THINKING OF WHAT TO DO IF YOU DIDN'T SAY YES.
UH, ISN'T THIS STREET...

NO CAN DO.
MAYBE IF WE COULD BOTH...
Suddenly
Buuut-
Wooow!
HUH? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DRINK THE STUFF YOU GOT?
IT'S BORING TO DRINK ALONE.
THAT'S SOON ENOUGH.
JUST THREE MORE YEARS.
tug
Awww
His face looked like a child's.
WE CAN DRINK TOGETHER IN NO TIME.
WELL, IF WE'RE GOING TO STAY TOGETHER FOREVER.
Here's some tea!
It was cute...



Which promise am I keeping?

That bolt of lightning is still in me.

end

Afterword

Hello!

I'm Hirakita Yuya
Thank you very much for buying "Sannin Gurashi"

This is my third story with Rutile
This book is somehow based on aprons and other peoples' children.
It's become a long story. It's always someone else's child.

I have a total of four books.

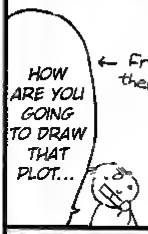
I've also drawn myself in an apron, one made by my grandma

And this time my title is in Hiragana

And, and I've packed this with "Things I've wanted to draw".

My pen pouch looks small, but I'm actually just chubby.

The next thing I drew was "Sannin Gurashi" which is a project that my supervisor helped me through from the beginning.



In the middle of drawing, my superior offered me a chance, and I was both overjoyed and tense and remember it well. I was lucky.

My very old "Pinky Promise" was an embarrassing debut of mine.

To think I'd get published and have people read my works.
It's thanks to all of you.
I thank you so much.
I hope that we will still see each other for the years to come.

February 2011
Love, Hirakata Yuya

WOW!

At that time, I was able to draw the continuation -"First love and Afterwards"- and the title was taken care of afterwards.
I'm shocked.
And I'm happy.